



The Newsletter of the Dan River Basin Association

CURRENTS

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WATER QUALITY

**ROCKINGHAM AND
PATRICK COUNTY UPDATES**

TROUT ARE BACK IN THE CLASSROOM



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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 February 12, 2014.

FIRST SATURDAY OUTINGS

(details at DANRIVER.ORG)

January 4: Waterfalls of Hanging Rock State Park

February 1: Hike at Grassy Hill, Rocky Mount, VA

March 1: Annual Celebration, Stuart, VA

CURRENTS

Staff

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Salamander. Photo by Jennifer Atkins.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR



DRBA Director Tiffany Haworth.

Sometimes it feels like I'm constantly running—to work, to a meeting, home to make dinner. It's easy to ignore that Styrofoam cup I'm guzzling my coffee from or my three trips to the grocery store this week because I kept forgetting something. It's easy to notice the money, energy and time I'm expending, but for some reason it's difficult to think about what resources I'm conserving.

I know I can do quite a bit for

the planet just by changing little daily habits. That's why I pledge to do five things in 2014:

- Recycle. My community doesn't have curbside recycling pick-up. It's easy to throw away that plastic bottle or newspaper rather than taking it to a recycling center. I pledge not to throw any recyclable items in the garbage. I may take it one step further and offer to take my neighbors' recycling too.

- Conserve/Reuse Paper. Half sheets, printer jams, to-do lists written on one side of a paper – yes, I've sometimes thrown them away. Not in 2014, however. I am going to keep them in a scrap basket and reuse them every time I can.

PRESIDENT'S SPACE

As I come to the end of my term as President of DRBA, my mind is filled with the many good things that DRBA



DRBA President Fletcher Waynick.

has been a part of this past year and a half. I have seen staff and volunteers put in long hours working to see that the Association flourishes. I do not think of what I as president have done but what you and the DRBA board and staff have accomplished. Partnerships have been built, and an incredible group of people have come together to further a dream that started with a park on the Mayo River eleven years ago and that

now has no end in sight.

Children may experience the rivers and outdoors in 42

- Use reusable containers—the easiest of all. Bringing my sandwich in a reusable container potentially keeps 365 plastic baggies out of the landfill. Instead of throwing out those plastic margarine, sour cream, and yogurt tubs, I can reuse them for leftovers. I can carry a reusable coffee cup in my car. Many coffee houses are pleased to use your cup instead of their own. When I go out to eat, I will bring a container for leftovers. I can keep utensils in my car and another set in my office so I never need to use plastic cutlery.

- Conserve water. How often do I mindlessly let the tap run? Brushing my teeth, washing my hands, cleaning vegetables, getting a cold drink. A tap averages 2 gallons of water every minute it's on. I can save eight gallons of water simply by turning off the tap when I'm brushing my teeth.

- Last, I pledge to stop wasting gas and polluting the air unnecessarily. No more three trips to the grocery store in a week. I will use those scraps of paper and write out my list. I will carpool when I can and plan my time in the car more efficiently.

I'm sharing my five 2014 Resolutions in hope that you'll make your own – or borrow a few of mine. These tiny things are easy, but impactful. If you will join me, well, then we can help the environment in a big way together. Happy 2014!

– *Tiffany Haworth*

schools via Trout in the Classroom. Experienced hikers may walk beside a family out to stroll with the family dog along the many trails designed for those of all abilities and interests. Kayakers, canoeists and sportsmen have safe access points that allow them to enjoy all the rivers in our basin. All can experience nature thanks to the outstanding work of DRBA and its many partners.

I encourage everyone to visit our website frequently to keep up with what is happening in the basin and the many activities, on water and on land, available through the Association. Remember: there is always something to do with DRBA. And don't forget to check out our online store for fun and useful items for your next trek.

Please remember DRBA when you pick a nonprofit to support, and always be on the lookout for people and funds to continue this important work.

And, as always: Keep spreading the good word!

– *Fletcher Waynick*

Visit us on the web: DANRIVER.ORG

STEWARDSHIP

Coliscan Water Quality Training

A huge thank you to DRBA volunteers for once again stepping up to help with water quality issues.



Samanthe Tiver Belanger prepares a water sample for the petri dish.

Fifteen volunteers met at Patrick Henry Community College on October 28 for our first training session to learn the procedure for determining the presence of E. coli and other coliforms. James Beckly of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) taught correct

sampling protocol and how to count bacteria colonies using the ColQuant Easygel method. We greatly appreciate Beckly's taking time to come from Roanoke to help citizen monitors learn how to effectively monitor our streams.

The Coliscan Easygel method enables monitors to do effective testing without expensive equipment. Volunteers will take two samples at each site—one above and one below the mouth of a tributary. Samples will then be brought back to the office and prepared.

The coliscan medium is placed in a petri dish with the sample, and the bacterial colonies grow on the plates. After a 48-hour incubation



James Beckly explains sampling procedures.

period, the plates are examined for colonies and a count is determined. The data collected will be used to identify any trouble on the tributaries, and then new sampling sites can be established until pollution sources are located.

In January, volunteers will begin testing five locations on the Smith River. Sample data will be collected each month at these five tributaries. Volunteers can prepare their own

samples or bring them to the Henry County office for preparation. Each sample count will be verified by DRBA staff as well as DEQ. All data will be shared with DEQ. Testing on the Mayo River in conjunction with the DEQ TMDL grant will begin in Spring of 2014.

-Brian Williams

More for Our Water Quality

DRBA welcomes our newest citizen scientist, Jennifer Atkins, of Danville. A DRBA member and volunteer, she recently completed certification as a Virginia Save Our Streams water quality monitor – Congratulations, Jennifer!

In addition to collecting coliform monitoring samples on the Smith and Mayo rivers, Jennifer also monitors



Jennifer Atkins.

Little Cherrystone Creek in Pittsylvania County, just upstream of the proposed Uranium mining site, using the Eastern Bio-monitoring (Muddy Bottom) Method for macroinvertebrates.

DRBA's Tub of Bugs has been busy with demonstrations for the Smith River Trout Unlimited Club, the Danville River District Festival, and grades 3-6 at Woolwine Elementary School.

The Virginia Citizens for Water Quality (VCWQ) held its annual summit on November 9, 2013 at the Union First Bankshares building in Ruther Glenn, focusing on sedimentation of Virginia's waterways. Presentations can be viewed at <http://vcwq.wordpress.com/meetings/>.

-Wayne Kirkpatrick

Teens Adopt Caswell Trail

Under DRBA's Adopt-a-Trail program, forty students from Dillard Middle School and Bartlett Yancey High School

have adopted the trails connected to the Caswell County Senior Center in Yanceyville. As participants in the Caswell County Partnership for Children (CCPFC) Wyman's Teen Outreach Program® (TOP®), they are encouraged to develop healthy behaviors, life skills and sense of purpose through age-appropriate, educational, hands-on learning activities. The program requires that youth complete a minimum of 20 hours of community service learning.

"Adopt-a-Trail sounded interesting," said a TOP® student from the high school, "something different and new for us to try."

For the rest of the academic year, the students will ensure regular clean up and maintenance of the adopted trails. They will also work with DRBA staff to complete a nature survey of the trails and produce creative informational materials about the trails.

"Trails are a vital asset to any community," says Nate Hall, Caswell County Commissioner and DRBA board member. "Studies suggest that trails provide not only environmental benefits, but also economic benefits. The trails attract residents and visitors to the area and make for fun and easy travel between community hot spots, such as the Senior Center, Yoder's Amish Market, and the Days Inn in Yanceyville."

Adds DRBA staff member Amy Farinelli, "Well-maintained trails allow people of all ages and incomes to engage in physical activity and connect with nature."

-Amy Farinelli

work with DRBA. Even though the internship is for a short while, I hope to make an impact for the organization and the community.

My main goal is to encourage healthy outdoor activities, all while building a stronger relationship with your pet. I hope that my work on the new dog trail will make this happen in our community."

Friends of Chinqua-Penn Walking Trail Win Prize



Hank and Jenny Edwards

DRBA's Jenny Edwards and Hank, her certified therapy dog from the Rockingham County Animal Shelter, grace the Christmas float created by Friends of Chinqua-Penn Walking Trail. The entry won second prize for amateur floats in the Wentworth Christmas parade! See more photos at www.chinquapenntrail.org/news-events.html.

New DRBA Intern Jacob Snyder

DRBA intern Jacob Snyder, from Eden, is a graduate of Catawba College where he majored in Environmental Studies, minored in Political Science and Biology, and was a member of the men's swim team. Jacob's work experience includes an internship with the non-profit Center for the Environment. He has been employed as a biological science technician for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation along the Lower Colorado River and with the U.S. Forest Service in Chester, California. Ask Jacob about his time with endangered bats and birds, seed banks, spotted owls, and how weather impacts riparian ecosystems.

FEATURES

Chase Inman Joins Team DRBA



Chase Inman

DRBA intern Chase Inman is a graduate of UNC-Greensboro with a major in Media Studies and Women's and Gender Studies and a minor in Political Science. She has also earned Executive Certification from Duke University in Nonprofit Leadership.

Currently working with DMI data management in Stoneville, Chase was for six years the Director of Marketing/Development and Volunteer Coordinator for the SPCA of Martinsville-Henry County.

Chase will be working on the DRBA team to help create a new dog trail at the Smith River Sports Complex. She also will take on fundraising and marketing efforts, to help increase brand awareness for DRBA.

Chase says, "I'm incredibly thrilled about being able to

Jacob will be working as needed basin-wide, beginning with a blueway at Philpott Lake. He says, "My main goals in interning for DRBA are to gain enough experience to obtain a full time job and to accomplish as many projects as I can for this awesome organization. My near future goal is to go back to school and obtain a master's degree in environmental law/policy. I have worked in different areas of our country restoring and protecting our natural resources but working for DRBA is the most rewarding because now I get to help protect and restore the land and waters that have molded and inspired me to be the person I am today."



Jacob Snyder

Rockingham County Rocks!

Trails! Gardens! Workshops! Trout! Things are jumping in Rockingham County!

With Mayor Ricky Craddock and town staff volunteering alongside DRBA members, the Town of Stoneville has broken ground on its first nature trail. When complete by February, it will run about ¼ mile along a beautiful ridge overlooking Stoneville Memorial Park. Financial support is provided by REI Greensboro, Reidsville Area Foundation, and DRBA members.

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) has opened in Rockingham County with a big bang! Thanks to funding from the Reidsville Area Foundation and DRBA members, Rockingham County schools will more than double their trout tanks from four last year to nine this year! For more information on TIC in Rockingham County, contact Caity Cardwell, TIC Coordinator, at ccardwell@danriver.org

DRBA's ongoing Rockingham County Jobs, Forests and Rivers Initiative (RCJFRI) has spawned several exciting projects. Made possible by the Reidsville Area Foundation, Kresge Foundation through the Model Forest Policy Program, and DRBA members, RCJFRI is an extreme weather resiliency plan of action developed specifically for Rockingham County.



Students help install a pollinator garden at their local school.

Through RCJFRI, DRBA has installed three pollinator/rain gardens at Stoneville Memorial Park, a local elementary school, and Lake Reidsville. The gardens are made possible through support from Reidsville Area Foundation, Wells Fargo,

The Trout are back in the Classroom!

Visit our DRBA website for the TIC Manual and tutorial videos: www.danriver.org/tic.



Prillaman Landscape Dimensions, Town of Stoneville, and DRBA Members.

Also through RCJFRI, DRBA partnered with Rockingham County Soil & Water Conservation District and Piedmont Triad Regional Council to present a free workshop, "Farm Ponds in Rockingham County." Topics presented by several North Carolina experts included the prevalence of farm ponds and their impact on the Dan River; farm ponds in historical context; impact of sediment on aquatic life; engineering concerns; and planning for the future.

Finally, RCJFRI allows DRBA staff to provide consulting services on local land development projects on low-cost methods that will enhance environmental aesthetics, protect water quality, and include trails to link with the Pathways Plan for Recreational Trails in Rockingham County

For more information, contact Jenny Edwards at jedwards@danriver.org or (336) 339-6169 or visit www.danriver.org/rockingham-county-jobs,-forests,---rivers

-Jenny Edwards



Volunteers and DRBA's Caitly Cardwell, hand clearing Ston- eville Nature Trail.



Joy Fields, Farm Pond Workshop

Chestnut Tree. Seedlings that are 15/16ths pure American Chestnut and 1/16th fungus-resistant species were recently planted on the Center grounds. In development since 2005, the BRH Center promotes education and economic development through place-based programs related to the natural and cultural heritage of the Blue Ridge region of Southwestern Virginia. Learn more about this project at <http://brheritage.org/CenturyOfChange.html>.

- The DRBA Club at Patrick County High School (PCHS) organized in November with guidance from club sponsor and DRBA member Elizabeth Wallace and DRBA volunteer Wayne Kirkpatrick. Activities for the nine students include



Apple Dumpling run.



Mayo River Rail Trail kiosk.

Patrick County Proceedings

- Patrick County will host DRBA's 2014 Annual Celebration on March 1, 2014 at Rotary Field in the Hooker Building. Featured will be the Tourism Advisory Council's program on current and future outdoor recreation efforts for the county. Following the meeting, all are invited to hike along the Mayo River Rail Trail.

- The Apple Dumpling 5K run/walk kicked off a full day of DRBA activities on October 19. Organized by DRBA volunteer Rebecca Adcock, 80 runners (up from 25 in 2012), vied for unique "apple" awards. Net proceeds will be available for trail work in Patrick County.

- DRBA is partnering with the Blue Ridge Heritage (BRH) Center to develop a trail connecting the Blue Ridge Parkway's Rock Castle Gorge Trail and the BRH Center, which adjoins the parkway. The Center is aggressively assisting in re-establishing an Appalachian icon, the

outings and cleanups, an E-waste recycling fundraiser, a tour of Mulberry Farm, water quality monitoring, volunteering at the Apple Dumpling Festival 5K, and helping develop trails.

Spencer- Penn Centre Dedicates Trail

The Karl Hellreigel Memorial Trail was dedicated November 17 during the Volunteer and Donor Appreciation Reception at Spencer Penn Centre. Hellreigel, a 1948

alumnus of Spencer Penn High School and former Spencer Ruritan member, was a generous and loyal supporter of the Centre and Ruritan Club. He loved the outdoors and loved watching wildlife.

Wayne Kirkpatrick, Chair of the Trail Committee, spoke about the new extension to the existing walking track. Featuring a natural turf surface track, the ¾-mile trail loops through a wooded area and then emerges to circle the Spencer Ruritan ball field. The trail is open for the public to enjoy from sunrise to sunset.

-Mary Jordan

OUTINGS

October 5 Cleanup

As part of the North Carolina Big Sweep and Rockingham County Clean Waters, DRBA held their monthly First Saturday paddle on the Dan River, from Settle Bridge to Whetstone Creek. As both the start and finish were located on private property, access was granted by the respective landowners.

The sky was a clear, bright blue and the day promised to be unseasonably hot for early October in North Carolina. The effort attracted fourteen participants and a mix of kayaks and canoes.

Six miles, six hours and over 500 pounds of debris later, the canoes were grossly overloaded to the point of being unstable, and the paddlers were exhausted and covered in mud. Tires were the most challenging items, and it was often required to dig and pry them from the riverbank.

All in all, a very successful day. We paddled a pretty section of the Dan that I hadn't personally seen before, had good company, and accomplished something worthwhile. I slept like a log that night.

-Paul Lowry and John Johnson

Third Saturday with the Kirkpatricks

DRBA's October 19 Third Saturday Outing was a three-mile hike exploring the North Fork of the Smith River, led by Wayne Kirkpatrick, followed by a covered dish meal at Wayne and Betty's home.

After initially meeting at the Kirkpatricks', everyone traveled to our hiking destination (a sincere thanks to Rusty Lacy for sharing access to his property). Activities officially began as Wayne pointed out the fresh claw marks (from bears!) on the apple trees.



North Fork Smith River. Photo by Jennifer Atkins.

The weather was threatening, but it ultimately held off with just a few sprinkles and overcast skies. The leaves hadn't quite turned, but the scenery was beautiful nonetheless. Cascading water could be heard and/or seen for the entire journey with several waterfalls that presented great photo opportunities. As the invitation indicated, the

hike was strenuous with a continuous steep climb. It's a good thing that Wayne is so patient!

After finishing the hike, everyone returned to the Kirkpatricks' where Betty had organized our feast. There was so much food to choose from (provided by Wayne, Betty and many participants). We had everything from hamburgers and potato salad to several pumpkin desserts and the cutest doggie cupcakes.



Claw marks. Photo by Jennifer Atkins.

I am a new DRBA member and this was my first of what I hope will be many outings. I am really looking forward to future events, meeting more new people and exploring the Dan River Basin with DRBA.

-Jennifer Atkins, Ringgold, VA

Discovering Nature in Uptown Martinsville

December 7 began with a chilly, gray morning but ten DRBA members and guests set out with four canine companions on a nature tour of Uptown Martinsville on four trails, three created in recent years. From the Uptown Connection Park on Depot St. a ten-minute downhill stroll

brought us to the Dick and Willie Trail, where we stopped to admire a scenic creek overlook just beyond the end of the Uptown Connection trail.

We were rewarded by the sun coming out and taking away the chill in the air, just as we began to ascend the most beautiful and intimate nature experience of the outing. At the beginning of a long meandering boardwalk through the wetlands at the bottom of a steep hill, Brian Williams, DRBA Program Manager for Martinsville/Henry County, pointed out the Silver Bell tree that he first noticed in spring 2012 when scouting the route of the future trail. Climbing the Silverbell through a narrow, secluded watershed another ten minutes brought us to a rest area on East Church St. with picnic benches and a Silverbell-inspired metal sculpture.

From the terminus of the Silverbell it is only a half-block walk to Frank Wilson Memorial Park on Oakdale Street, where we descended a staircase into the 37-acre park. We made a circuit on natural surface and paved pathways along the stream running through the middle and then climbed the hills where a Disc Golf course was recently created, bringing new trails that provided a scenic and meandering woods ramble at the end of our circuit of the park.

Having met in the chill of 10 am, we felt much warmer when parting company back at the Depot St. parking area at noon. The sun warming the air, along with the brisk up- and downhill hikes on the trails of Uptown Martinsville warmed the body and the spirit. We enjoyed the company of a guest from Maryland, a couple from New Jersey who will soon be living in the Basin fulltime, and seven Martinsville area DRBA members and staff, each of whom seemed to discover something new about the city that day, or to have useful information to share with the group.

-Paul Johnson

Winter Pleasures: Snow-Yaking



When you love to paddle as much as we do, you will find a way to get to the river, no matter the season or the weather. When it snows, we're excited to get to the river and enjoy a completely different experience, paddling through the quiet beauty of the newly blanketed landscape.

But sometimes, the snowplow can't get the roads cleared for a couple of days, and when that happens, grab your

favorite river playboat...it's time for "Snow-Yaking!" Just about any kayak will do, even your old canoe. Find a good hill with plenty of room, and preferably no trees. Don't forget your helmet and paddle. Now you are ready to bring a whole new level to the world of downhill fun!

First, the snow should be deep enough so your boat doesn't scrape the ground and gouge your expensive plastic or plow a furrow. Just use common sense and respect the



environment and the downhill course you choose to snow-yak on.

Learning how to maneuver a river runner on a snow-covered hill takes a little getting used to, but once you get the hang of it, it's a blast! What a rush when you find a wide open hill with just the right slope. It's going to feel like you can't control the boat at first, but just use your hips and balance, much like you would on a class II rapid. You can even use your paddle to brace and brake and help with some steering.

Remember to keep safety first. Never sled or snow-yak on any road, never pull any sled, kayak or other snow toy behind a vehicle, and always respect private property. So next time we get a few inches of snow, knock the cobwebs off that plastic hanging in the garage and get out there to bust a move on a river of white powder!

-Brian Williams



MEMBERSHIPS & DONATIONS 9-1-2013 | 11-3-2013

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Friends of Chinqua-Penn Walking Trail

Larry Terrell



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