

A blue heron is captured in mid-flight, its wings spread wide, flying over a river. The background is a dense forest with green foliage, and the water in the foreground is slightly blurred, suggesting movement. The overall scene is vibrant and natural.

CURRENTS

Dan River Basin Association

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A TRIBUTE TO
OUR VOLUNTEERS
THE SEASON FOR CLEAN-UPS

Currents • Volume 16 • Issue 4

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Cover Photo by Brian Williams

DAN RIVER CLEAN-UP JULY 15

On a beautiful day, DRBA intern and novice paddler Shaun Frazier-Griffin had a lot going on during his first river cleanup. Frazier-Griffin, a rising high school senior, joined DRBA's Jenny Edwards and 11 other volunteers to collect trash from 2.5 miles of the Dan from Lindsey Bridge to 704 Bridge in Madison. Shaun relates his experience to DRBA board member Wayne Kirkpatrick:



WK: Shaun, how was your first kayaking adventure?

SF-G: When I first launched I had a hard time getting situated into the boat. It was hot and humid. I started paddling towards two narrow strainers where I lost some control, actually running into one and then the other!

WK: That must have been a rough start, but you pulled it off! What did you think of the rapids?

SF-G: I kept paddling down the river until I saw the rapids, and I got excited. When I went down the rapids, I was calm and thrilled at the same time. After all that excitement I started to really notice the trash. You could see it in the trees, in the water and on the beach. It was extremely challenging to get in and out of my kayak so often, but I finally did.

WK: What were some of your more difficult moments?

SF-G: When we got to this certain strainer we saw some trash. I got out of my boat to get it and went knee deep in mud! There were vines and thorns everywhere!

WK: What was the best part of your adventure?

SF-G: By the time we got to the take out, the volunteers had collected 400 pounds of trash! Being on the river and helping out was the highlight of my day!

WK: What advice would you give a newcomer to a DRBA trash pick-up?

SF-G: I would advise them to wear strong pants and boots!

DRBA is very proud to have young folks volunteering with the organization. Kirkpatrick reported, "With so much going on with this river adventure, Shaun was a real trooper! He never had a word of complaint or frustration. His 'no quit' attitude will serve him well with any challenge he faces in his future!"

SMITH RIVER SUMMER CLEANUP

In July, 35 hardy volunteers cleaned the Smith River from South Martinsville to Marrowbone Creek, hauling out over 660 pounds of trash and 11 tires. Sponsored by DRBA and Gateway Streetscapes Foundation, in partnership with Henry County, the cleanup drew such faithful volunteers as Patty Williams, Mark Wingfield, the Boxley crew, and Lisa and Tony Perez.



Latala Payne Hodges of the Harvest Foundation, commented to the Martinsville Bulletin:

"I'm amazed at how much waste we pulled from the river So much litter from the roadways ends up in our drinking water... I'm thankful for the staff and volunteers at DRBA for what they do... every day, and I hope our community continues to support this vital organization. I don't want to imagine what Martinsville and Henry County would look like without DRBA's involvement."

['st(y)ōōərd,SHip] the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving

Nearly 1,000 DRBA volunteers give their time annually to make sure our rivers and trails are protected, thousands of kids have environmental education experiences, and our citizens and tourists can enjoy the outdoors safely and with abandon. A few are highlighted here.

Calyn Wall, faculty adviser for the McMichael HS mountain bike club, has not missed a Rockingham County river clean up for two years.



Duke Energy's **Davis Montgomery** has volunteered on mountain bike trails and brought the full force of Duke Energy's volunteer corps to Rockingham County.



Patty Williams has helped with the Smith River Cleanup for almost 10 years. She is the first volunteer at the event in the morning and the last to leave. She buys the food for the volunteers, makes sure everyone has what they need for the cleanup, and is a wonderful advocate for our rivers and trails.



In partnership with DRBA, **Daniel Reynolds** of Henry County Parks & Recreation has introduced many new paddlers to the Smith River. He is also

a Smith River Fest partner and has participated in many river cleanups.

Pat and Tina Sharpe are Smith River Cleanup regulars and also good stewards of their 300-acre property along the banks of Blackberry Creek.



Mark Wingfeild's river cleanups predate DRBA. A Smith River regular, he drags out his old jon boat for every cleanup and always collects all kinds of debris. The good news is that the jon boat loads are smaller than they've been in years past.



Tony McGee, RoundRock Design, has donated hours to developing trails across Rockingham County and beyond, contributing time, labor, and expertise to trail construction and to community meetings where he explains the power of trails as agents of rural community development.



For years **Sherri Wright** has been DRBA's go-to volunteer for festivals, having staffed DRBA's booth at over a dozen events. She was also instrumental in launching the DRBA Club at Galileo Magnet High School in Danville, managed a neighborhood stream restoration, and is an active DRBA board member.



Aman Sarwary, owner of Hugo's Restaurant Uptown Martinsville, is a regular contributor and sponsor of DRBA events, participating in river clean-ups and providing food to volunteers.

DRBA conducts an extensive **Citizen Water Quality Monitoring (CWQM) Program** in Danville, Martinsville, and Patrick and Henry counties. CWQM volunteers regularly collect samples from several of the basin's streams and deliver them to a lab for testing and recording. Here we highlight four of these intrepid volunteers



Jessica Driver, another Danville CWQM volunteer, is shown agonizing over, but easily passing, her CWQM Certification test. She and DRBA Board member Sonya Wolen monitor a Danville stream quarterly for macroinvertebrates and monthly for e-coli, and she voluntarily conducted insect appreciation lessons for a summer camp.

Craig "Rocky" Rockwell, recently retired from the US Army Corps of Engineers, continues to be passionate about protecting our resources. With a background in water resource management, he monitors a stream on his Henry County property. His samples are always on time, often accompanied by pictures.



RLC member **Anna Lester** is dedicated to the CWQM program of Woolwine Elementary School. Anna donated funds to replace the waders and other equipment to sustain the twice-yearly monitoring of two stream locations by the school's 6th and 7th grades.



DRBA's Danville CWQM Program Intern from Averett University, **Jeanne Bustamante**, is vital to the success of the program. Within 24 hours of a sample's being received, she plates the sample and counts the bacterial colonies once they have grown. She keeps up with supplies and trains volunteers on the monitoring protocol.



Eden's **Cindy Adams** supports outdoor recreation through river cleanups and a wildlife photographic exhibit. Instrumental in starting the Eden Rivers & Trails group, she is helping develop the Matrimony Creek Trail.



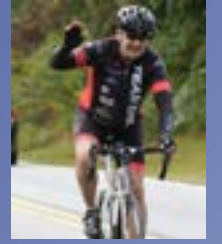
McMichael HS student **Karina Alamiri** is a founding member of her school's Mountain Bike Club. She recruits new club members, raises funds for the club by hand-knitting and selling head warmers, and volunteers on river cleanups.

Mark Williams, brother of DRBA's Brian Williams, lives in Atlanta but came up twice last year to visit and help out. Among various DRBA projects, he was a huge help with the "River Experience" Education Outreach program for Henry County, where he was wonderful with the kids, and they loved him.



Boxley Materials employees come out, work, and get the job done as a team, partnering with DRBA on each summertime Smith River cleanup.

Reidsville's **Danny Booker** supports and promotes the Lake Reidsville hiking/biking trail, voluntarily removing debris from the trails.



[,vælən 'tir] a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or to undertake a task

Since 2012 **Lisa Perez** has helped DRBA with Trout in the Classroom and water quality monitoring. Twice a year she partners with DRBA and Gateway to host the Smith River Cleanup, scouting needy areas beforehand and staying afterward, still collecting trash. She and husband Tony make environmental stewardship a family affair: Dillon, Aidan and Anna understand the importance of keeping our waterways clean and work amazingly hard on every cleanup. Tony cooks a big meal for the volunteers and gives away a door prize at each event—this year a brand new kayak!



Virginia Tech junior **Miles Rachner**, long a DRBA volunteer, helped prepare the river for Smith River Fest and staffed the festival, helping folks off the river and catching rubber duckies for the Boys and Girls Club duck race. A landscape architect major, he helps on planting projects and is writing a thesis on rehabilitating the river corridor through Bassett, including plans for the Bassett Area Outdoor River Education Park.

Michael Brandt, Mayodan Town Manager, brought vision and contributions to developing the Mayodan Mountain Bike Trail from "no place" in the woods to a state-of-the-art trail



that in its first year has hosted 3 adult/youth bike races and brought more than 1,000 racers and supporters to Mayodan.



Former DRBA intern **Jackson Glandt** returned this summer to boost the McMichael HS Mountain Bike Club by providing skills clinics and to help complete 1/4 mile of new trail at Lake Reidsville.



Jake Easter with Winston-Salem BeersNGears has traveled to Rockingham County to support the Lake Reidsville Hiking & Biking Trail during public meetings, lead McMichael HS students on rides, and appear in on a UNC-TV North Carolina Weekend program to promote Rockingham County Trails.



Lee Templeton, president of Friends of Chinqua-Penn Walking Trail, can often be found hauling debris after a storm, planting grass to prevent erosion, arranging for trail improvements, or creating fundraisers, including Run with the Cows 5K. In addition, she volunteers as a monthly Citizen Water Quality Monitor on a stream in Danville.

Latala Payne Hodges, marketing director at The Harvest Foundation, is a second-year veteran of our river cleanups. She had never been on a boat before coming to her first river cleanup. Now she loves to paddle and pitches in at the cleanups, Smith River Fest, and other DRBA events.



LOCAL TU CHAPTER HOSTS FISHERMEN ON THE SMITH RIVER

The Trout Unlimited (TU) Annual National Meeting met recently in Roanoke, VA. The local Smith River TU (SRTU) Chapter showcased the Smith's outstanding trout fishery to over 25 guests from across the USA, generating praise for the fishery and for the generosity of the SRTU hosts. SRTU also contributed to the silent auction that raised funds to support the VA Council of TU's Embrace-A-Stream program. SRTU invites anyone interested in learning more about its efforts to conserve the integrity of the Smith River trout fishery to visit www.smithrivertu.com, attend the quarterly meetings, and/or participate in any of the chapter activities.



Photography donated by Darrin Doss

LOWES SERVING THE COMMUNITY



Staff and employees of Lowe's Home Improvement of Mayodan, NC designed and constructed an outdoor classroom for three schools that serve the Madison/Mayodan area. The classroom is located on Big Beaver Island Creek and provides an outdoor learning environment for more than 1,200 students.

TRAIL TREKKERS GOING STRONG

This group, co-sponsored by Henry County Parks & Recreation and the Dan River Basin Association, meet on Thursdays to explore a different trail every week. Weather permitting, we meet at designated locations throughout the county or nearby parts of neighboring counties. All the trails selected are moderate in length and difficulty, and senior-friendly, but there is no minimum age requirement.



Trail Trekkers enjoy a day amongst friends and nature

Please contact Paul Johnson at kpj24112@gmail.com with any questions. Those interested in this program should pre-register with Henry County Parks & Recreation Senior Services at 276-634-4644 to receive weekly e-mails of meeting place. There are no fees to participate in this adventure.



Duke Energy Team of Volunteers

Join
DRBA
Today!



The Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) protects and promotes the Dan River Basin through recreation, education and stewardship.

www.danriver.org

MEMORIES OF OUR FIRST DRBA OUTING, JULY 1, 2017

- Reaching Townes Lake near Meadows of Dan
- Paddling two miles with 19 participants on one of the deepest parts of the Dan River—at its origin
- Listening to absolute quiet on still water
- Smelling damp riverbanks, graced with white rhododendron in full bloom
- Observing rare yellow spotted salamanders skittering underwater
- Feeling the temperature change as we paddled near waterfalls
- Learning rudimentary canoe skills and etiquette
- Celebrating a successful trip with T's traditional brownies
- Chatting with new old friends—no doubt we will meet again
- Stopping at Poor Farmer's Market for yummy ice cream
- Planning many more First Saturday excursions



Hugh Citty and Margaret Petty

[,rekre'āSH(ə)n] activity done for enjoyment
when one is not working

AUGUST 5 ON PHILPOTT LAKE

On August 5 the DRBA FSO group paddled leisurely around Deer Island on Philpott Lake. Our colorful flotilla of 24 canoes, kayaks, and stand up paddle (SUP) boards included 28 participants from near and far. Joining us were two paddlers from Florida who are volunteering at the Philpott Lake Visitor Center for the summer and two others who made the drive up from Durham, NC. During our lunch break several tried out their skills on the SUP boards, with varying levels of success. But everyone had fun and made new friends along the way. Philpott Lake is known for its clean water and well-maintained access points.



Although the water level had dropped nearly four feet from early July, there was no negative impact to our experience.

Robin Davis

SEPTEMBER 2 ON THE SMITH

I'm a relatively new DRBA member, having joined this past March, and an even newer kayaker, with my first lesson on 7/20, just before my first FSO—August on Philpott Lake.

I looked forward to the September FSO from the Smith River Sports Complex to Mitchell Bridge until I noticed the caveat about helmets being required for Class III Eggleston Falls and advised for the bypass sluice. I consulted my kayak teacher, who felt that I could handle the sluice, but then made the rather ominous comment, "If you go over, it's an easy rescue"!

Well, after thinking it over, I decided to go on the Outing.

I made it through the sluice staying upright, and not getting stuck on any rocks. Subsequently, I saw one boat overturn, mine scraped several more rocks, and then I got stuck on two different rocks. Seeking a different approach, I started following one of the more experienced kayakers. But I was still scraping a lot of rocks, and got stuck on two more. After another pause to analyze the situation, I realized that the person I was following weighed about 130 lb, so that boat was riding much higher than mine with a 210-lb payload. After I identified the largest experienced kayaker and started following him, there was a big reduction in rock scraping, and I didn't get stuck on any. I then finished the paddle being more relaxed, and without any significant incidents.



I found the entire trip to be an interesting learning experience, and met lots of congenial folks. I plan to go on all of the Outings that I can!

Graham Park

[‘membər,SHip] *Belonging, either individually or collectively, to a group.*

MEMBERSHIPS
3/16/2017 - 9/30/2017

Sponsors - River Legacy Circle

Margaret Petty and Hugh City
Mike and Jane Haines
Kathleen Anderson and Peter Jonas
Chris and Anna Lester
Paul and Patty May

Benefactor

Graham Park, III
Tom and Robin Taylor

Protector

Marcus and Sarah Brinks
Cathie Carter

Municipality

City of Eden
City of Reidsville
County of Rockingham
Town of Danbury
Town of Madison
Town of Mayodan

Town Of Stoneville
Town Of Wentworth

Organization

Charlie's Soap
Town and Country Garden Club

Steward

Harvey Boysen
Peyton and James Cherry
Karl and Deborah Fields
Don Leathers and Susan Lassiter
William and Susan Moore
Ezekiel and Joanne Williams

Family

Jack Betts
Rhonda Edwards
Shawn and Karen Gorman
Peter and Melissa Hairston
Don Leathers and Susan Lassiter
Paul Lowry
Henry and Gail Mitchell
Ross Patterson
John Hartman and Kay Richey
Jim and Nancy Sells

Terry and Cindy Summit
Bob and Kathy Willgohs
Adam and Pamela Wright

Individual

Sandy Bown
Rickey and Robin Davis
Linda Drage
Katherine Fox
Jane Gardner
Susan Henderson
David Hughes
Alan Johnson
Russell Lawson
Bob Mason
Melissa Mills
Melissa Puckett
Chester Ratliff
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Selda Scott
Ward Stone
William Sutton
Janice Wilkinson
Lynn Wolf
Robert Yeatts, Jr.

DONATIONS

3/16/2017 - 9/30/2017

Sponsors

Blue Ridge Aquaculture
Lindley and T Butler
Dr. David Jones Jones and Deshon
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Benefactor

REI

Protector

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US Army Corps of Engineers
Ezekiel and Joanne Williams

Steward

Dwight and Martha Hopkins
Homer Wright
Lisa Duncan, President Womens
League of Eden
Mrs. Lee Plummer Templeton
The Outdoor Foundation

Other

Nancy Bell
Joe and Denise Clark
Jennifer Edwards
Jennifer Helms
Gardner Keith
Russell Lawson
Paul Lowry
Bob Mason
Sharon Olson
Selda Scott
Spray Cotton Mills
Robert Yeatts, Jr.

**Friends of Chinqua-Penn
Walking Trail**

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Mark Collins Branch Banking
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Craig and Judith Cardwell
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Robert Wheless
Katherine Fox, Wild Ginger
Bred Angel LLC

Trout in the Classroom

Insurance Center of
Patrick County
Reidsville Rotary Charitable Org
Adam Irving, President,
Nat Greene Flyfishers

**Patrick County Trails/Apple
Dumpling Race**

Blue Ridge Bank
County of Patrick



Beautiful weather, friends young and old and the thrill of competition... where else should you be? It was the Annual Run with the Cows at the Chinqua-Penn Trail in Reidsville, NC. Nearly 100 participants enjoyed the day and crossed the finish line with a smile!



A youth run started the day off with a thrill!



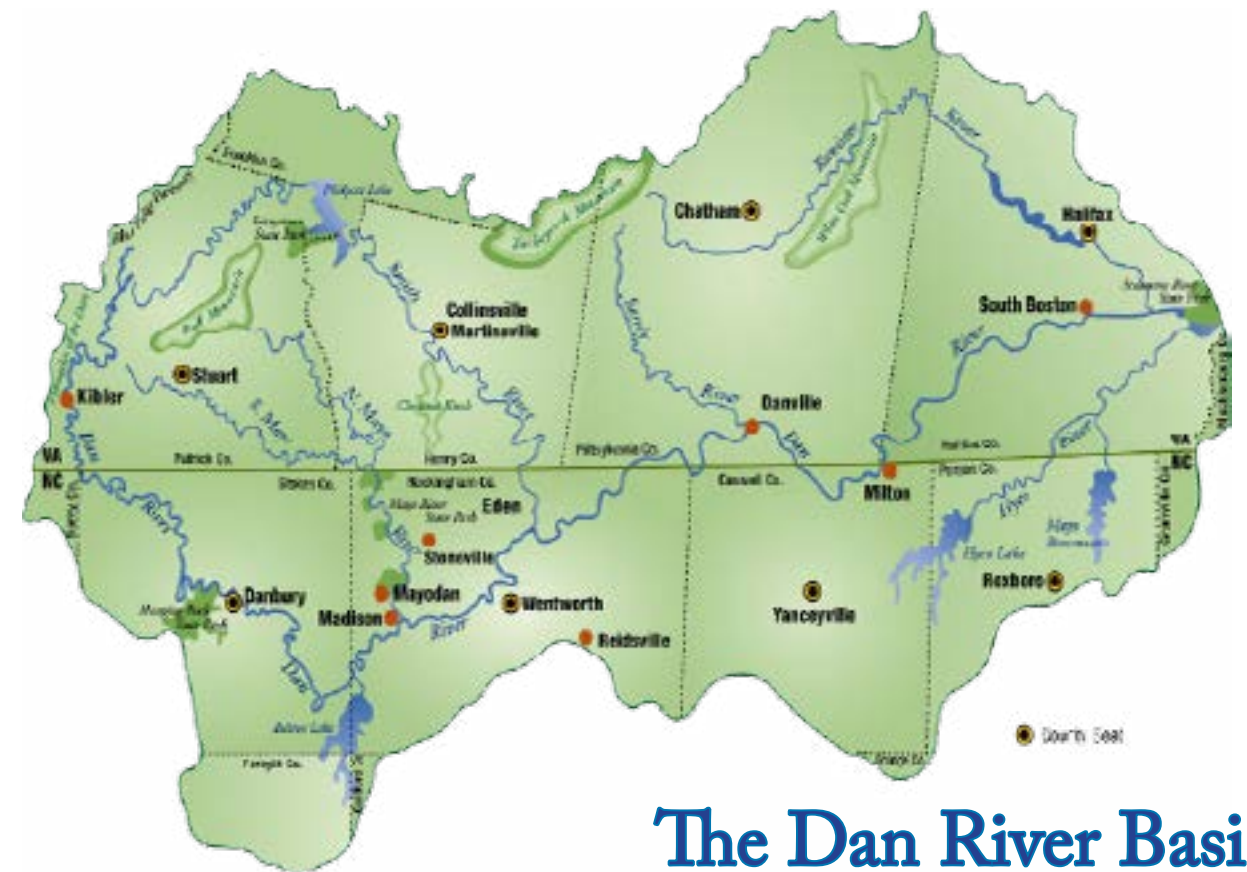
First to cross the finish line Henry Stevens!



Both sun and shade provided a welcomed respite along the trail



Runners enjoyed a variety of terrains -- from natural trail to boardwalk



The Dan River Basin

WHAT'S NEXT?

October 7

FSO on the Dan River

October 21

Third Saturday Outing/Covered Dish
at the home of Wayne & Betty Kirkpatrick
Art in Nature Auction

November 4

FSO Hike along Sandy River in Danville

December 7

FSO Hike at Knight-Brown Nature
Preserve

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www.danriver.org