



North Carolina Big Sweep, September 21

CURRENTS is the newsletter of the Dan River Basin Association

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The sixteenth annual North Carolina Big Sweep for Litter-free Waters is scheduled for September 21, 2002. On that Saturday volunteers from all 100 counties in the state will collect debris from our waterways—lakes, rivers, oceans, streams, even roadside ditches, fields, and parking lots. If you have not volunteered to help the cleanup in your area, it's not too late! The state office is at 800-27-SWEEP, but the quickest way to volunteer is to contact the county coordinator in the area you want to work. Below are names of county coordinators in the Dan River Basin:

Caswell: Robbin Turner, robbinturner@yahoo.com, 336-562-5297

Forsyth: George Stilphen, georges@ci.winston-salem.nc.us, 336-727-8013

Granville: Jason Falls, recycle@granvillecounty.org, 919-603-1355

Guilford: Lynne Leonard, lynne.leonard@ci.greensboro.nc.us, 336-373-2957

Person: John Hill, jah2524@yahoo.com, 336-597-7806

Rockingham: T Butler, butlerl@vnet.net, 336-349-5727

Stokes: Sara Jo Durham, sara-durham@nc.nacdnet.org, 336-593-2847

DRBA Wins \$350 Spring Clean Award

In April 2002 Rockingham County Government and the Rockingham County Beautification Council held the county's second annual Spring Clean, designed to clean up roadside litter and illegal dumps. Nineteen nonprofit organizations competed for cash prizes, with DRBA winning \$350 for the most pounds of trash collected per participant. Six DRBA members delivered 25,260 pounds of debris to the county landfill during the two-week event, averaging over two tons per participant. Among other sites DRBA members targeted, Mike Covey headed the partial cleanup of an abandoned dump on Matrimony Creek, a tributary of the Dan. He was joined by Jeff Johnston, Lindley and T Butler, Bob Futrell, and John Lamiman in cleaning up property belonging to the Rockingham County Historical Society.

The county waived tipping fees for registered groups, whose 144 members delivered over 62 tons of trash to the landfill. A total of \$2000 was distributed among the ten winning groups. "We're delighted with the turnout and the results of the cleanup," said T Butler, chair of the Beautification Council. "And we're really grateful to our sponsors who made the prizes possible." For further information about Rockingham County Spring Clean, contact T Butler, 336-349-5727 or butlerl@vnet.net.

First Saturdays on the River

- September 7: Madison (704 crossing) to Settle's Bridge
- October 5: Settle's Bridge to Eden
- November 2: Hemlock Golf Course to Pine Hall

(revised due to low water levels)

Shuttle Directions

For Saturday trips, meet at the take-out at 10:00 AM to set up a shuttle, and bring your lunch! On September 7, meet at the Settle Bridge landing. (From Eden or Madison, take NC 135 to Settle's Bridge Rd.; go south across bridge and turn left on Dan River Rd. to parking area.) October 5 takeout is Wildlife Access Area on Bethlehem Church Rd. From Eden, south on NC 14 across bridge, turn right at Harrington Hwy. and follow signs. On November 2, meet at the Pine Hall landing; Stokes County Road 1908 bridge, one mile south of US 311. (This trip depends on sufficient water levels and was postponed until November in hopes of relief from the drought. Postcards and emails with latest information will be sent just prior to the October and November trips.)



Hanging Rock to Hemlock Golf Course

We arrived at the Hanging Rock put-in on a first Saturday Outing ...not knowing what to expect. After meeting everyone we were on our way for our first river trip in our brand new canoe. Despite being warned about the divorce boat syndrome, we fared relatively well for our first time out. Of course, after we found out who was in charge with the navigation (Kristen). The weather at the start of the trip was great. We became familiar with the small riffles of the Dan, through the guidance and suggestions of some of the DRBA members. We never imagined all the different styles of strokes that Jeff would show us! And Lindley and T Butler helped guide us all the way through the trip. We experienced the beauty of the Dan and just how much fun it was floating down the river.

Just before we stopped at Moratock Park to eat lunch we witnessed a baptism on the side of the river. While watching the baptism, we were caught off guard by the largest rapid we would run that day. We came pretty close to getting wet but we managed our way out of the rapid and then somehow, avoided swimmers. Once at Moratock Park, Ken Bridle met us for lunch. He was later meeting us to shuttle the vehicles back to the take-out. Back on the river, just after lunch, the weather became extremely intense with thunder and lightning moving in on us very quickly. When the rain came we took cover and shortly decided that it was letting up. Upon leaving our shelter, the storm really hit us with a punch and it started to hail!!! The temperature dropped dramatically and it was now quite chilly. This time when we took cover we were unable to find sufficient trees therefore, we were being bombarded with HUGE hail!!! This part of the storm seemed to last forever but it was soon time to push on. We can say we have never been stuck in a hailstorm outdoors let alone in a canoe on a river. It was definitely a new and exciting experience.

The rest of the trip was great with a small mist on the river and plenty of small riffles. The scenery on these two legs of the Dan was spectacular. There were lots of forests and undeveloped land with dramatic cliff walls. We were now closing in on the Hemlock Golf Course take out and end of the trip with the infamous broken dam we kept hearing about. We were beginning to wonder if it was really that difficult or if the group was just trying to frighten us a little. But after the weather we witnessed nothing was going to scare us. Well we finally made it and after hearing of the dam since lunch and the much anticipated thrill of the run through the dam.....we got stuck. It turns out that after getting stuck a couple of times on the river we learned a couple of general rules for ourselves. If there's a lead boat...follow it. And within our boat we learned the difference between one who steers the boat and one who navigates the boat. (Maybe this can be applied outside of canoeing also.) — Kyle and Kristen Hoover



Stokes Stomp September 28/29

Moratock Park in Danbury hosts an annual community festival on the shores of the Dan. Musicians, artists, craftsmen, and food vendors are among the highlights of this two day event. The Stomp begins with a parade at 10 AM on Saturday the 28th.

DRBA Receives 501(C) (3) Approval

In August, DRBA received notice that we are officially a 501 (c) (3) publicly supported nonprofit organization. We are grateful for the pro bono legal advice given by Jule Gwyn, who reviewed our application before we submitted it to the Internal Revenue Service. DRBA was incorporated as a nonprofit corporation in North Carolina on February 20, 2002

Virginia DEQ Reports Impairment of Basin Waterways

The 2002 report of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality reports impairment of many streams in the Dan River Basin. The report evaluates the streams as supporting, not supporting, or partially supporting use for swimming, fish consumption, and aquatic life, and lists causes of impairment. The most frequently cited impairment in the basin was partially supporting or not supporting swimming use due to fecal coliform bacteria. In these categories were segments of the following rivers (county in parentheses): Russell Creek (Patrick), Blackberry Creek (Henry), South Mayo River (Patrick), Smith River (Henry), Marrowbone Creek (Henry), Leatherwood Creek (Henry), Dan River (Pittsylvania), Sandy River (Pittsylvania/Halifax), Double Creek (Pittsylvania/Halifax), Birch Creek (Pittsylvania/Halifax), Cherrystone Creek (Pittsylvania), Banister River (Pittsylvania/Halifax), Whitehorn Creek (Pittsylvania), Sandy Creek (Pittsylvania/Halifax), Aarons Creek (Halifax), Coleman Creek (Halifax), Little Coleman Creek (Halifax). The following streams and/or segments were all found to have at least one impairment and/or cause, in addition to being at least partially impaired for swimming use due to fecal coliform bacteria:

Hyco River (Halifax), threatened fish consumption use, PCBs

Dan River (Halifax/Mecklenburg), partially supporting fish consumption use, PCBs

Dan River (Pittsylvania/Halifax), partially supporting fish consumption use, threatened aquatic life use, PCBs and Phosphorus

Smith River (Henry), partially supporting aquatic life use, general standard benthic impairment

Little Buffalo Creek (Mecklenburg), threatened aquatic life use, phosphorus

Further details may be found at the DEQ website: <http://www.deq.state.va.us/water>



Board Meeting Highlights

The DRBA Board of Directors will meet at 2 P.M., Sunday, September 8 at the Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville. The Museum is at the intersection of US 220 South and Douglas Avenue, one block south of the intersection of 220 and US 58.

Highlights from the June meeting: We have 98 paid memberships, including 71 charter memberships. Our receipts thus far total \$3512.20; disbursements are \$953.68; balance on hand is \$2558.52. DRBA now has enough funds to join River Network. DRBA will cohost the Virginia Canals and Navigation Society meeting in Danville next spring, sometime in April, May, or June. We will provide logistical support, the venue, lodging information, and field trips between Milton and Madison. Of the two canoe accesses applied for in Rockingham County, the one on Jeff Johnston's property made the first cut; however, state funding is uncertain. A lengthy discussion occurred regarding the stance DRBA should take on controversial projects that affect the rivers in our basin. We agreed that we must first gather all available facts for each case, aiming for avoidance and minimization of harm to the basin, and offering mitigation. Our approach is moderate and pragmatic; we attempt to include all interested parties; and we hope to present alternatives for projects that are detrimental. We would rather work with companies, agencies, and individuals than against them. Jeff Johnston and Tom Brawner of RRBA met with Virginia state delegates and a state senator who are working to create the Roanoke River Commission, a bistate group to coordinate control of the Roanoke River Basin. USDA's Project Wet will be held for all fifth graders in Rockingham County on September 27 at Betsy-Jeff Penn 4-H Center. DRBA has agreed to teach water safety on the lake for the event. For the Stewardship Committee, Ken Bridle reported that he contacted the state about holding a workshop for Streamwatch, and he has heard from a hydrologist who wants to monitor sediment. North Carolina Division of Environmental and Natural Resources hopes to reorganize its mitigation functions via a new department for ecological restoration. The presence of two endangered species—the James Spiny Mussel, found now in the upper Dan and the lower seven miles of the Mayo River, and the Rainbow Floater—led NC DOT to target the Dan above Danbury for restoration. DOT is purchasing entire properties for easements, paying high prices that may make it impossible for PLC to purchase land on the upper Dan. For the Education Committee, Forrest Altman circulated two mockups for a color brochure and reported on cost estimates for various print runs. *Board members were asked to send appropriate pictures to Steve Carpenter in any form available.* Regarding the website, www.danriver.org is up, stating that it is under construction. We hope to tap designing and writing expertise from our membership. The Board voted to spend \$250 to have a Charlottesville graphics designer whom Jeff has met submit several logo concepts to us.

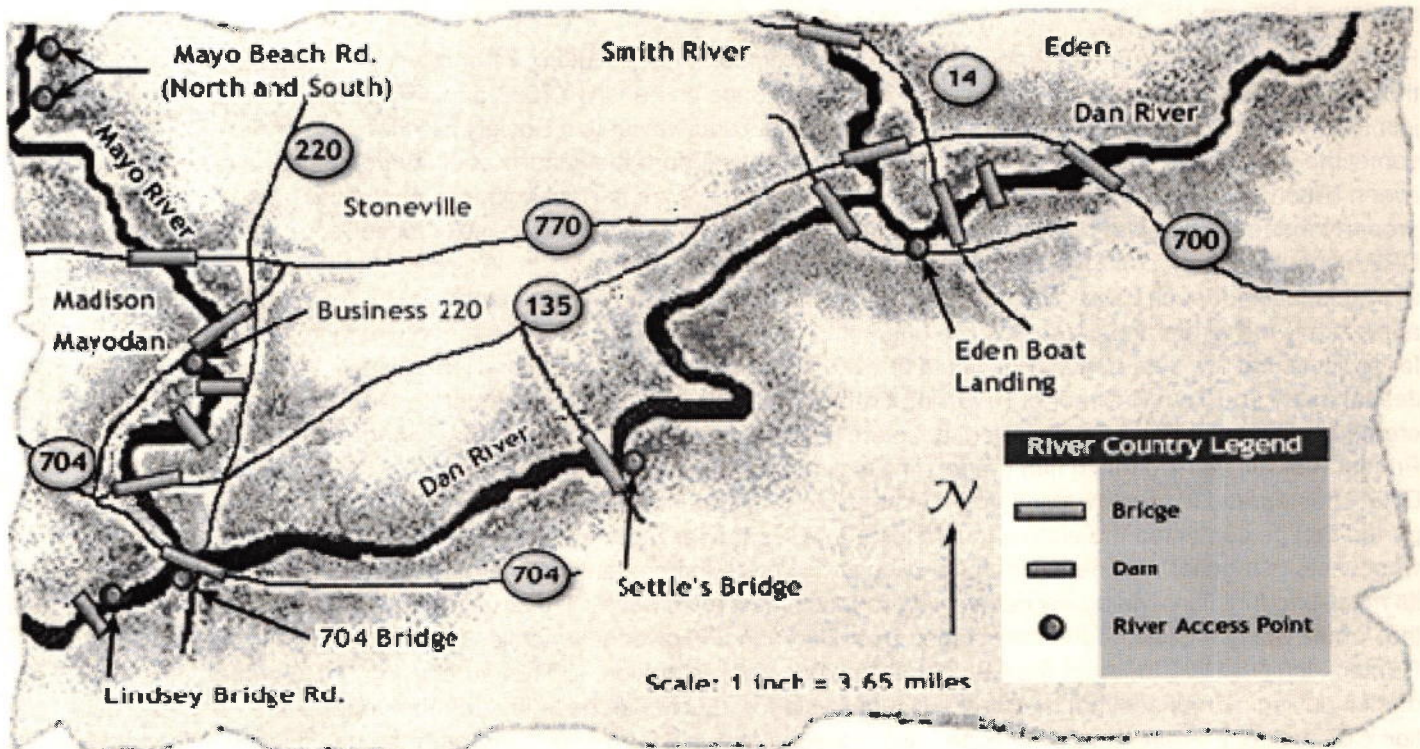
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Email: www.drba@danriver.org

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT:
[HTTP://WWW.RRBA.ORG/DRBA.HTML](http://www.rgba.org/drba.html)

Promoting stewardship, recreation, and education in
the Dan River Basin region

NEXT BOARD MEETING 2 P.M. SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
Virginia Museum of Natural History
1001 Douglas Avenue, Martinsville, VA



this map by Ginger Waynick is found at http://www.ncnorthstar.com/rivercountry/rc_frames.htm
The site includes trip descriptions, photos, and details about the Dan and Mayo rivers.