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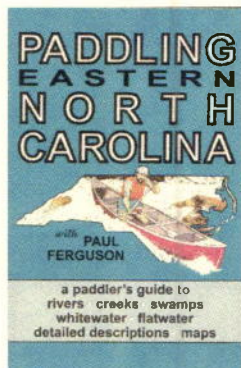
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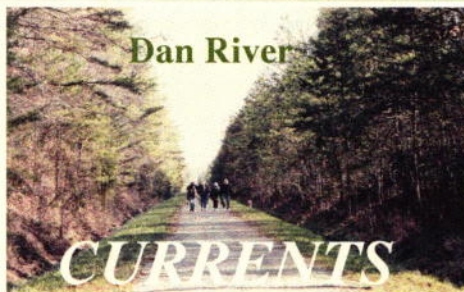
First Saturdays Outings

- April 5: White Oak Mountain Hike
- May 3: Dan River Paddling Trip, Stokes County
- August 2: Dan River Boat Race, Madison

June and July trips now being planned (details by email/ postcard)



New paddler's guide by
DRBA board member
Paul Ferguson re-
viewed on page 2



ANNUAL MEETING TO STUDY WILD & SCENIC RIVER STATUS AT THE CROSSING

The annual meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday, April 10 at 7:00 p.m., in the Pepsi Building at The Crossing, beside the AMTRAK station on Craghead Street, in Danville, Virginia. After election of officers and other business conducted by President Jeffrey Johnston, the Association will hear four speakers explore Wild and Scenic River status, focusing on the histories of the New and Staunton Rivers and the outlook for the Dan. The panel discussion will be moderated by Dr. Forrest Altman, author of The Dan River Book: Odyssey, Epic, Guide. Speakers will be drawn from Virginia and North Carolina. Norman B. Smith of Greensboro will describe his experience with gaining National Heritage River status for the New River, and the advantages that have accrued to the region. Tom Stutts of Alton, Virginia will discuss the campaign to achieve Wild and Scenic status for a segment of the Staunton River. Karen Cross of Danville and Ken Bridle of Walnut Cove, NC will discuss the outlook for the Dan River's future in the states of Virginia and North Carolina respectively. Following these presentations and an exchange among the panel members, the floor will be opened for questions from the membership and other in attendance. (Condensed from Forrest Altman's article for the Winter Issue)

VIRGINIA CANALS & NAVIGATIONS SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING A JOINT MEETING WITH THE DAN RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION IN DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, APRIL 18-20, 2003

FRIDAY: Registration for the meeting will begin at 4 PM in the display room near the registration desk of the Stratford Inn. Also starting at 4 PM is the VC&NS Board Meeting in the Stratford Inn. Everyone is invited to attend.

SATURDAY, 8 to 4: All-day bus tour of Danville, Virginia and Milton, North Carolina. We will be riding a school bus, arranged with the help of Danville Parks and Recreation. Celebrate Danville's new riverfront and explore the batteau canal around the falls. Raise a toast to General B.W.S. Cabell and the Roanoke Navigation Company. Downriver in Milton (the entire town is an Historic District) visit the Tom Day Museum and participate in the first ever Cocquade Day celebrating William Byrd's first crossing of the Dan River on October 10, 1728.

5 to 10 : Prior to the banquet you will be free to visit the display room and socialize. There is a bar close to the display room where you may order your own refreshment or a waitress will take your order.

7 to 8: Buffet Dinner will be in the banquet room of the Stratford Inn directly across from the display room.. After dinner we will remain in the banquet room for our meeting. Our main speaker will be Lindley Butler, PhD., the authority on the history of the Dan River, who will present a slide talk on navigation and historic sites on the Dan River. Jeff Johnston, President of the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA), will speak to us about the newly formed organization.

SUNDAY: 7 AM (shuttle cars to Milton) to noonish: The first ever Easter Morning batteau and canoe trip down the beautiful Dan River from Danville to Milton, through six of the batteau sluices built in the 1820's by the Roanoke Navigation Company. For inquiries about this trip and to reserve a place on a batteau or a canoe, contact Pete Runge at ph:434-977-3733 or email prunge@ntelos.net Let him know your preference and whether or not you would be willing to ride in a canoe if space is not available in a batteau.

DIRECTIONS TO THE STRATFORD INN: Danville Virginia is located on US Rt. 58 West of Martinsville. The Inn is near the intersection of Rts. 29 and 58 on the north side of Rt. 58. If you need directions you may call the Stratford Inn and they will help you. PH: 1-434-793-2500.

Reservations: Room reservations can be made by contacting the Stratford Inn. Remember to tell the desk clerk that you are with VC&NS and your group number is #123. If you have any problems our contact person is Vicki Barber. Our special rate is \$61.00 for 2 double beds, two guests. You should receive a free coupon for a hot breakfast of your choice, with four different menus. The banquet room and display room are conveniently located near the registration desk. Stratford Inn: 1-434-793-2500 or 1-800-Danville. (W.T.)

WHITE OAK MOUNTAIN HIKE APRIL 5

DRBA's April 5 First Saturday outing is rescheduled from the rained-out March trip—a 2-mile hike on the Saponi Trail at White Oak Mountain, north of Danville. Led by Board member and history buff Joey Bane, we'll hike this loop trail through woodlands near the Banister River, including four stream crossings. Tough or even waterproof boots are recommended. Weather permitting, meet at 10:00 a.m. in the parking lot at the entrance to Belk's at Piedmont Mall on U.S. Highway 58 in Danville to carpool and caravan to the trailhead. Bring lunch and water, camera, walking stick, and guests. For more information, contact Joey Bane: 434-572-4891 or jbane@gcronline.com. (T.B.)

JANUARY TRIP REPORT: SUTHERLIN TO RINGGOLD HIKE

Sutherlin, Virginia, January 4, 2003, 10:00 a.m.

Thirty members of *Homo sapiens* and four of *Canis familiaris* met to hike the 5.8 miles of the Richmond & Danville Rail-Trail. The weather was sunny and breezy, with temperatures in the forties and fifties. After Trip Coordinator Forrest Altman led cars and drivers to the western terminus at historic Ringgold Station, he was assisted by veteran trail activist Dick Howard in shuttling drivers back to Sutherlin, where the hike commenced at 10:30. The 8-foot-wide trail, surfaced with easy-on-the-feet finely-crushed stone, leads past wetlands, woodlands, farms and fields. After a lunch-and -photo-op stop under the famous five-arch stone trestle which crosses Sandy Creek, a tributary of the Dan River, the group proceeded westward to a 200+-acre farm where the owner, retired Judge T. Ryland Dodson, met us and introduced us to his 200-year-old cabin, barn, tobacco-curing shed and other outbuildings and his magnificent 350-year-old tree. The farm will become a kind of museum for the study of how tobacco was raised and processed "in the old days," before recent technological changes. It carries a conservation easement and will never be commercially developed. The hike continued to Ringgold Station, where the outing concluded at about 2:00. Drivers who had left their cars at Ringgold shuttled back to Sutherlin those who had left their cars there. Several hikers from Charlotte Courthouse and South Boston/Halifax County seemed interested in joining the Association. We are growing! (F.A.)

PADDLING EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA by Paul Ferguson

Congratulations to Paul Ferguson for a tremendous accomplishment that will inspire Carolina paddlers for many years to come. Setting out to supplant the now-outdated Paddler's Guide to Eastern North Carolina by Benner and McCloud (1987), Ferguson explored 2600 miles of paddling trips on 70 streams and produced a 478-page guide of much broader scope than its predecessor. The title is too modest, since the book covers nine basins occupying three quarters of North Carolina, from the Blue Ridge foothills to the coast, not just the eastern half of the state. The Dan is described in 11 pages, with an additional 5 devoted to the Mayo, in the section on the Roanoke Basin. Each trip description is concise yet detailed, including distance, difficulty, width, and gauge information as well as excellent full-page maps. The introductory section explains river

rating systems, paddling safety, paddlers' rights and courtesy, river camping, and water quality. Four appendices refer the reader to river gauges, useful books and maps, relevant organizations, and the state water trails. Illustrated with excellent, well-chosen photographs, Paddling Eastern North Carolina is an essential purchase for every Carolina paddler from the Blue Ridge to the coast. It can be purchased for \$19.95 from the author's website <http://www.PocosinPress.com>, and from many bookstores and online booksellers. (P.J.)

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY DRBA MEMBERS MEET

GreenWay: On Tuesday, March 18 seventeen DRBA members and five guests from Rockingham County met to discuss the feasibility of establishing a greenway system in Eden. Rockingham County Chair Phil Hunicutt presented a proposal for creating a GreenWay network inside the city, using both neighborhood trails, such as an abandoned railroad right-of-way, and natural trails, particularly the existing sewer rights-of-way along the Dan and Smith River corridors. DRBA Vice President Mike Covey displayed a schematic of the city's sewer lines and an aerial photo of the Smith River corridor where an initial GreenWay trail is projected. Using an existing road and sewer lines, the hiking and biking trail would begin at the YMCA and extend along the river to the Spray bridge, with a length of nearly two miles. **RiverFest:** A second project for DRBA in Rockingham County is a proposed river festival in Eden in September. Miller Brewing Company has approached DRBA about partnering in a celebration of the river to raise awareness of the river as a natural resource, an historical treasure, and a recreational center. The Dan River Race in Madison on August 2 draws paddlers from a wide region, and this event some weeks later would involve families for a variety of activities. **Volunteers Needed:** Both the GreenWay project and the RiverFest will require lots of "worker bees" to make them happen. All DRBA members, both in Rockingham County and elsewhere in the basin, who can volunteer for any aspect of these projects are invited to contact Mike Covey at mcovey@netpath-rc.net or 336-623-6650. (T.B.)

DECEMBER TRIP REPORT: MISTLETOE/HOLLY HUNT, UPPER LITTLE RIVER

Lillington, Harnett County, North Carolina, December 7, 2002, 10:00 a.m.

On a sunny December day, with temperatures in the 60's, 15 persons and one dog gathered at Hardee's. The persons and dog were from 12 towns in 11 North Carolina counties: Reidsville (Rockingham); Semora (Caswell); Hillsborough (Orange); Benson (Johnston); Laurinburg (Scotland); Salemburg (Sampson); Lumberton (Robeson); Fayetteville (Hoke); and Wilmington (New Hanover). Two of the human beings were members of the Dan River Basin Association. Most of the rest were members of the Lumber River Canoe Club. Caravanning south on NC 210 and east on Joel Johnson Road, they turned right at the 300-acre farm of Rose and Joel Johnson and paraded to the banks of the Upper Little River, tributary of the Cape Fear. Launching 3 kayaks (Scott and Christine Sauer, the trip leader's son-in-law and granddaughter); one beautiful hand-made solo canoe (Chris Hopper) and five tandem canoes (Forrest Altman/Nancy Byrnes; Annette Jurgelski/John Lesztina; Don Meese/Grant Florian; Charles West/Mary Florian; Don Moss/Gerald and Rachel Pottern); they paddled upstream, pausing, thwarting, grappling for mistletoe and pruning for holly sprigs. Before reaching the one not-so-easy-to-climb rapid, 8-year-old Christine was not paddling but being towed by her Dad; and 9-year-old Rachel was not a passenger but the bow paddler, with Dad a passenger in the bilge and Don Moss coping in the stern. Lunch stop was at the rapid just downstream from NC 210 bridge (eminently floatable in today's high water); on the grounds of the American Legion hut. Nancy asked "Who has a birthday today? This week? Last week? This month? Well, anyway, everyone have a slab of this chocolate cake" (with yummy fudge frosting).

Caroling their way downstream, already well laden with bags of mistletoe and holly for decking the hall, the holiday revelers paused occasionally to gather that last irresistible, reachable sprig. A jolly crowd. Four of the fifteen stopped in to greet and thank our hosts. Rose took down her Thanksgiving decorations and hung the wreath of juniper boughs we gave her. Joel, recovering from major surgery, gingerly led us on a tour of his large and handsome guest house, his guinea fowl, bantam and "regular" chickens and his massive hogs. Nancy petted the dogs. (F.A.)

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WE'RE ON THE WEB AT:
[HTTP://WWW.DANRIVER.ORG](http://www.danriver.org)

Promoting stewardship recreation and education in
the Dan River Basin region

*NEXT BOARD MEETING 10 AM SATURDAY APRIL 12
Outdoor Program Office, Danville Parks, Recreation and Tourism
Ballou Park, Danville, Virginia*

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JANUARY BOARD MEETING

DRBA's Board of Directors met on 25 January 2003 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. at Eden City Hall. The first topic of discussion was the need for a position statement about the Roxboro/Person County pipeline proposal which would draw water from the Dan. The Board passed the following resolution: The Dan River Basin Association Board of Directors cannot support the Roxboro/Person County water project as proposed because of concerns about: interbasin transfer; reduction in river flow between the points of water outtake and return and below; lack of a drought management plan; likelihood of adverse effect on fisheries; and absence of clearly established economic need.

T Butler reported that we have 118 memberships. Of 71 charter memberships, which ran out at the end of 2002, 35 have renewed. Lindley Butler gave financial reports for the fourth quarter and the full year of 2002. From 10/02 – 12/02, receipts were **\$5,376.53**, including \$1300 of the \$6300 grant from SAB Miller for the Floyd Rich project. The remaining \$5000 of that grant has been placed in a BB&T CD to earn interest. Disbursements were **\$1,088.61**, leaving a balance of **\$4,287.92**. From 12/01 – 12/02, receipts were **\$7,075.70**, again not including the \$5000 in the CD. Disbursements were **\$2,787.78**, leaving **\$4,287.92**.

DRBA is now a member of River Network, website www.rivernetwork.org. Jeff Johnston will provide our River Network password to Board members who request it to make available their training, funding, and board development information. Our website, www.danriver.org, is being developed by Kyle Hoover, Ginger Waynick, and Jeff Johnston. We also have email now, including members@danriver.org for the secretary and news@danriver.org for the newsletter.

The committee structure was extensively discussed. Each of our standing committees is to have a chair who will shepherd the subcommittees assigned to its area. The subcommittee list is incomplete and will change as needed. Executive Committee—Jeff Johnston, Chair; Land Acquisition, River Access, Park—Tom Edmonds, Chair; Phil Hunnicutt for Rockingham County; Membership—Rockingham County Committee—Phil Hunnicutt, Chair; Person County Committee—Terry Painter, Chair; Stewardship—River Monitoring—Mike Vaughan, Chair; Advocacy (open); Education—Publicity (News Releases)—Forrest Altman; Brochure—Forrest Altman; Newsletter—Paul Johnson; Recreation—Neill Watson, Chair; Outings—Terry Painter, Neill Watson, Judy Rouse, Rex Rouse, Joey Bane; Dan River Festival—(open.)