

the Natural and Cultural Resources of the Dan River Basin by Promoting Stewardship. Recreation and Education

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Director's Notes New Brochures Leaksville Landing MH Rivers & Trails Autumn Cleanup Dan River Race First Saturday 5 **Outing Reports**

Board Minutes Chinqua-Penn Trail

Memberships Caswell Trails Hike DeHart Gardens

Ist Saturdays' Schedule Open House Planned Challenge Gift

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FALL 2006

PIEDMONT MAGAZINE FEATURES DR BA

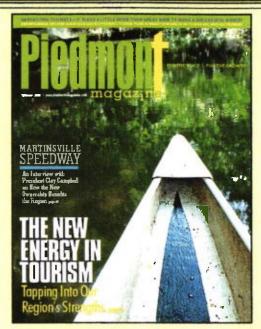
Have you seen the new Piedmont Magazine? Subtitled "Positive Voice/Positive Growth." the full-color quarterly magazine covers economic development in the four counties of Patrick, Henry, Pittsylvania, and Rockingham-all within the Dan River Basin.

And the Dan River Basin Association is featured in a beautiful full-page ad and a major article, entitled "It's a New Era on the Rivers! Activists Reclaim the Dan River Basin and Its Heritage, Building a New Economy Along the Way."

Publisher Gary Coms states the magazine's vision as "promoting the good about our area and all that it has to offer-our exceptional educational systems, our outstanding health-care facilities and the potential that each community holds not only for its existing residents but future residents also."

region. Editor and writer Cheryl Hopkins covers moonshine producer in Madison. tourism initiatives in each county and the cooppotential visitors.

Crooked Roads and Covered Bridges in Patrick magazine, visit www.pjedmontmagazine.com. County, the new Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville, tourism plans for Danville



Volume 1, No. 1 of the magazine is a special and for Rockingham County, motor sports in report on "The New Energy in Tourism" in the southern Virginia, regional wineries and a legal

A copy of the magazine may be picked up at erative efforts to market the region as a whole to the DRBA office in Mayodan, and most libraries and all Chambers of Commerce in Rockingham. Besides the DRBA article, the magazine Pittsylvania, Henry and Patrick counties. For includes stories about Three Rivers Outfitters, more information, including subscriptions to the

submitted by T Butler

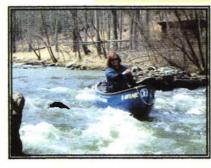
DRBA FEATURED IN Z SMITH REYNOLDS FOUNDATION REPORT

The 2005 annual report of the Z. Smith Reynolds featured. Entitled "A Sense of Place," the report pro- Dan River Basin's rivers as places of significance. files a few of the groups that received grants from the Foundation in 2005.

On Pages 32-33 of the report, T and Lindley Foundation has come out, and the Dan River Basin Butter are pictured on a clear winter's day at the Mayo Association is one of the organizations prominently. River, alongside their essay about their sense of the

continued page 6

Greetings from the Director



Basin and to have the aking. chance to share a few words.

Much has happened in the short time I have been here. As new river access points have opened, DRBA is being asked to help with additional river accesses and trails in counties across the basin.

One of the more challenging issues we are facing is the recent release of state water quality reports indicating that certain sections of the

Thank you for your Dan and some of its tributaries do not meet water quality criteria for fecal warm welcome and for your coliform (FC) bacteria and sediment. The Dan watershed is not alone in energy, enthusiasm and facing these challenges, and one of the first steps needed is a bacteria support for our rivers and source tracking analysis so we have a better understanding of probable the people who share them. contributors to the problem. FC is an indicator of the possible presence I am delighted to join you in of pathogens, which, if ingested, could cause illness. The affected uses your work in the Dan River do not include secondary contact recreation such as canoeing and kay-

> Going forward, DRBA will be looking for opportunities to assist state and local governmental agencies in their efforts to address the problem. In the meantime, I would like to echo the words of health department officials with whom I worked on similar impairments in Virginia: Use common sense precautions. Don't drink the water and wash off when you get out.

> > Katherine K. Mull

DRBA'S NEW BROCHURES

MEMBERSHIP BROCHURE AND MARTINSVILLE-HENRY COUNTY RIVERS & TRAILS BROCHURE

With two new offices and staff members, new addresses and phone numbers, the time has come for a new membership brochure for the Dan River Basin Association. A committee of the Board of Directors worked with professional designer Fran Smith at DEZA, Ltd. of Charlottesville, who designed DRBA's Batteau Navigation Trail brochure, to revise the brochure this year.

Based on the design of DRBA's original brochure, the new publication opens to reveal a map of the basin, which from the beginning has been the most compelling part of the pamphlet. The latest brochure surrounds the map with photos of outdoor recreational activities across the Basin, including DRBA First Saturday Outing pictures, and the map shows many of the most prominent physical features of the region, such as mountains, lakes, and parks.

Water quality monitoring activities, bicycling, wildflowers, and a photo of the batteau on last year's Danville to Milton float grace the opposite side. The cover shows the Lower Falls of the Mayo River, located within easy walking distance of DRBA's office in Mayodan, NC.

Thanks in part to a grant from the Virginia Department of pertise of Katherine Hebert and Forestry, DRBA's Rivers & Trails affiliate is also publishing a Katherine Mull for its informative membership brochure that highlights the Smith River Trail System text. and explains the benefits of greenways along rivers.

ers & Trails, this brochure shows a map of Henry County with bers, including Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick, Dr. David Jones, Jeff locations for river access points, the Smith River Demonstration Johnston, Julia Pyron, Floyd Rich, Lindley and Tom Butler, Kathe-Trail at Fieldale, the rail trail, and future parks.

Also designed by DEZA, this brochure draws on the ex-

DAN RIVER BASIN DAN RIVER BASIN MARTINSVILLE Rivers & Trails Group HENRY COUNTY ASSOCIATION Dan | Benister | Hyco | Mayo | Sandy | Smith

For both brochures,

An educational tool as well as a promotional tool for Riv- DRBA is fortunate to have excellent photography from our memrine Hebert, Kay Slaughter and VisitStokesNC.com.

LEAKSVILLE LANDING ACCESS AND PARK

CONGRATULATIONS! Yes, you are welcome to put your cance or of the Eden City Council, members of the city's kayak, your tube, or just your feet in the Dan street and maintenance departments, and River within the city limits of Eden, NC.

water while picnicking on a park table. Others may enjoy listening to nature during a stroll on the paths.

The Leaksville Landing River Access adjacent to the new Leaksville Landing Bridge at Hamilton Street was dedicated on Tuesday. August 22. Open dawn to dark, the site provides a metal-grate stairway as an easy water out the access.

Designed by Jeff Johnston, the stairway is batteaux docked at the set up to be self-cleaning, so that mud will not port of Leaksville accumulate on the steps when the river rises. Landing, whose rocky

where he recognized former county planner At Eden Riverfest on September 16, DRBA WELCOME! Faye Shelton, contractor Sam Smith, members DRBA leaders Jeff Johnston, Lindley and T Some folks simply may want to view the Butler, all of whom had a hand in bringing this river access and park into being

> Historian Lindley Butter noted that this is not the first time this location has been important to boaters and to Eden. Throughnineteenth century shallow-draft E v e n wharf and mooring site. Headed

> > downstream toward Weldon, they car-

ried the products of the river valley's farms, such as tobacco and cotton. On return trips they brought goods from all over the world, in-

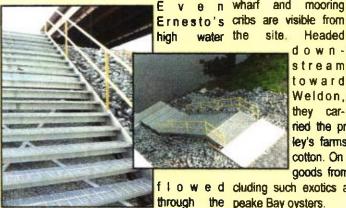
cluding such exotics as a piano and Chesa-

African American crews and captains ran the batteaux both before and after the Civil Eden Mayor John Grogan welcomed a War, becoming highly respected members of

planned to offer batteau rides from the park: however, high water had flipped the batteau on its moorings, and the volunteer crew spent most of the day helping to right the boat while visitors enjoyed DRBA's riverside booth.



submitted by Gloria Best and T Butler



open grating

and washed the steps nice and clean.

happy crowd for the dedication ceremony, the riverside communities.

MARTINSVILLE-HENRY COUNTY RIVERS & TRAILS

River Access Points

Martinsville-Henry County Rivers & Trails (R&T) proudly announces three new public access points on the Smith River in Henry County. Designed for non-motorized boats, each has a short ramp, parking lot, trash Administrator Benny Summerlin, Parks & Reccan, and the necessary signage.

Special thanks go to Jeb Bassett of Basset Furniture who kindly allowed one of the accesses to be built on Bassett Furniture property near the Trenthill Bridge across the Smith River. The other two accesses are on Henry County property-at Fieldale off River Road at the Upper Smith River Treatment Plant and off Eggleston Falls Road where Marrowbone tor Kathy Hebert has proceeded with plans for Creek enters the Smith River in Ridgeway.

R&T provided planning & technical

ing, technical assistance, equipment and labor. the accesses.

Many, many thanks to Henry County reation Director Roger Adams, Henry County Mapping and Engineering, the Henry County Board of Supervisors, and the Public Service ployees enough for all they have done to make reational opportunities in Henry County. these accesses a reality.

Additional Projects

Virginia Planning and Program Direc- monitoring projects. the Fieldale Demonstration Trail and the rail to Henry, Patrick, and Pittsylvania counties in trail project from Fieldale to uptown Martinsville.

assistance, while Henry County supplied fund- We have received funding for the Fieldale Trail from the Dominion Foundation and the VA De-Henry County Parks & Recreation will maintain partment of Forestry; a brochure has been published; easements from landowners have been signed; and the trail is awaiting construction. Federal and state transportation funds earmarked for the rail to trail should soon be available, enabling negotiations for the right of way to begin. Hebert has also spent many Authority. R&T can't praise Henry County em- hours on the Master Plan for river-related rec-

Dr. David Jones & Wayne Kirkpatrick continue with the Trout in the Classroom and stream Four thousand Brown Trout eggs will be supplied to 25 classrooms in

Continued on page 6

AUTUMN RIVER CLEANUPS

COME ON OUT AND HELP US CLEAN UP OUR RIVERS!

North Carolina Big Sweep and Clean Virginia Waterways are coming to a place near you!

We'll scour the rivers, the banks, and-if you'll help-your very own neighborhood's roadsides, parking lots, ditches, and streams. Since water flows downhill and carries litter with it, all of our efforts improve the health of our rivers and lakes.

Here's a schedule of DRBA-sponsored events from which vou can choose:

Saturday, September 30, 9:00 a.m.—NC Big Sweep cleanup of roadside and creek banks off Hamlett Road near Eden, Contact Milton Hundley, 336-623-8681, or T Butler, members@danriver.org.

Saturday, September 30, 9:00 a.m.-NC Big Sweep Dan River Cleanup in Stokes County, Contact Carolina Canoe Club. Kelly Norton. 336-254-7434 knorton@highpoint.edu.

Monday, October 2 - Saturday, October 7-Rockingham County's NC Big Sweep cleanup. Multiple sites and groups to join, or set up your own. All ages welcome! Contact T Butler, 336-349-5727 or members@danriver.org.

Friday, October 6—"on your own" Road Sweep pickup day in Henry County. Contact Lois Christensen, 276-634-4674 or gateway@co.henry.va.us.

Saturday, October 7, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.—Smith River Cleanup at Jordan Creek Park in Fieldale. Contact Lois Christensen, 276-634-4674 or gateway@co.henry.va.us.

And here are the NC Big Sweep coordinators for other North Carolina counties in the Basin. They'd love to hear from

> Caswell-Brandi Boaz, 336-694-4158 Person-John Hill, 336-597-7806 Stokes—Sara Jo Durham, 336-593-2847x3

DAN RIVER BOAT RACE IS SUCCESS AGAIN

The Dan River Boat Race, sponsored by the Madison-Mayodan Recreation Department, held its 17th annual race on an information and sales booth at the NC 704 Access where August 5. As it has been for the past five years, DRBA was a racers and fans could mingle near the finish line, listen to Kirby sponsor of the race and provided a safety team.

Former Board member Neill Watson and other DRBA Altman and Dave I members handled safety for the 69 teams, which competed in Hill from Caswell multiple categories for both solo and tandem kayaks and canoes. County and Lynda Paddlers ranged in age from 16 and under to 60 and over, and Purcell and T Butteams were divided among men, women, mixed, and family.

With many paddlers returning year after year, the boat ham County was race provides a sort of reunion on the river that boaters look for- Deepa Sanyal from ward to each August. Dixie Penn. Director of the Madison- Henry County. Mayodan Recreation Department, pronounced the 2-1/2 mile race a huge success again this year.



In addition to participating on the water, DRBA set up Wilkins's music and enjoy lunch in the shade. Joining Forrest

ler from Rocking-

A member of the Martinsville-Henry County Rivers and Trails Group, Deepa directs the local office for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Race day introduced her to the historic architecture of Mayodan and Madison and

Deepa Sanyal meets the Dan River

provided her very first opportunity to see the Dan River.

Like many of the Boat Race contestants, Deepa hopes to come back to the Dan River often.

AUGUST 2006 FIRST SATUR DAY **OUTING: North Mayo River**

On Saturday, August 5th, 15 boats and 17 people arrived at the Mayo River for the DRBA "First Saturday." Hey, there's our trip leader, Will Trustow! We quickly shook a few hands and drove to the starting point for the ride down the river.

I had a flashback to the last time we made this trip, when rain had turned the North Mayo into a real fast ride. Today was very different. We were looking at a mostly shallow cruise. This water was clear instead of the rushing muddy water we had seen on the last trip.

There were some really nice rapids that excited a few folks and there were generally smiles all around. The great thing about a DRBA

event is there are all kinds of skill levels with some really nice people who all look after each other. Safety on the river is always number one.

We stopped for lunch at what I will call the "break rock," Given the afternoon temperature it was very hard to stay out of the water! There is nothing like a nice lunch on a clear rocky river.

Before we knew it we were approaching our take-out point just under the bridge. Everyone had

a great time. Want to have some fun with some really cool people? You need to get out to the next "First Saturday DRBA event." See you there.

SEPTEMBER 2006 FIRST SATURDAY OUTING: Stokes Float

The DRBA Stokes Float was held Saturday, September 2, and was a wonderful success. Eighteen boaters enjoyed the float, manning a flotilla covering a broad range of river traveling, personal craft. Canoes, both open boats and bagged and blown white water crafts, were racing with the current. The kayaks brought to the river were also varied: included were rec-boats, touring, sit-on-tops and skirted, white water, and tricksters.

All were at home on this span of the Dan, from Snow Creek to the Hemlock Golf Course. Mother Nature provided the

> beautiful scenery, lots of late-summer wildflowers. and enough flow in the riverbed to allow for some small wave surfing and easy passage for all boaters. The cool water was inviting and a few enjoyed a short dip.

Lindley Butler pointed out a number of fish traps, which date back to the prior residents of 1000 years ago. I think we all stretched our imaginations as we passed under the high cliff known as "Mount Horrible," noticing a huge dislodged boulder,

imbedded in the river. Many thanks to the organizers, DRBA President Will Truslow and Barbara Solomon for spreading the word. All had a great time. submitted by Paul May

ULY OUTING TAKES UNEXPECTED TURN

paddlers.

Lake vielded some unexpected

On July 1, 12 DRBA rewards. Three great blue we admired the cave formation However, owners of the dam House. As Banister Lake nar- our air-conditioned vehicles. chose that day to work on the rowed into the original banks of

members in 10 boats wel- herons accompanied our up- that towered over our boats, comed our new Executive stream trip to our lunch spot at and stopped to wade, swim, Director Katherine Mull to her the picnic shelter of a former and rest before the long haul first First Saturday Outing, Girl Scout Camp, which pro- back to the put-in. Although which was to have been just vided welcome shade in the we had only paddled 3 1/2 miles below the Banister Dam near woods. After a relaxing half each way, by the time we ar-Halifax to view historic batteau hour, paddlers continued up-rived back at the put-in the sluices and Native American stream to a Halifax County group was more than ready to fish dams in the Banister River. landmark called the Rock leave the sweltering lake for

William and Nancy turbines, making the river com- the river, we approached a Trout who chronicled the river pletely out of the question for wilderness area called "the in his Dan River Atlas, have Swamp" and encountered a graciously agreed to join us The unanticipated wild eagle and later a river next year for another try at the trip up the lowered Banister otter swimming along the bank, trip from Halifax to Terry's At the Rock House Bridge.



submitted by Paul Johnson

DAN RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the July 12 Board meeting, the first order of business was welcoming Katherine Mull, DRBA's first Executive Director, who began work on June 19. Another important new item of business was organizing fundraising efforts to support the new Mayodan office and staff.

Reports were received on the many activities of the Martinsville-Henry County Rivers and Trails Group and the organizing of Caswell Trails.

In the area of water quality monitoring, Ken Bridle was to send comments about North Carolina's report that listed sections of the Dan and Smith rivers as impaired. DRBA continues to hold water quality monitoring workshops and educational programs in Virginia and North Carolina under the leadership of Bridle and Wayne Kirkpatrick.

Plans were made for upcoming outings and festivals and an open house for the Mayodan office.

Next Board of Directors Meeting: The next meeting will be at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday. October 11, 2006.

DRBA FEATURED BY Z. SMITH REYNOLDS

Continued, from front page

The very last page of the Mayodan, NC. report is a dramatic picture of this special place.

report are at the DRBA office at sion. 103 South Second Avenue.

The report is online at the Boiling Hole at the Mayo www.zsr.org. Click on Forms & River, which, although misla- Publications, Annual Reports, beled as the Dan, shows the and the 2005 Annual Report to stark beauty and romance of see a PDF copy. Page 32 of the printed report is found on page A few copies of the printed 18 of 33 in the electronic ver-

MARTINSVILLE-HENRY COUNTY RIVERS & TRAILS

continued from page 3

mid-November. Students will watch their trout hatch and grow and will release their trout in the Smith River next May. Kirkpatrick has begun training the teachers associated with the Trout in the Classroom Program in water quality monitoring techniques.

Due the efforts of many stakeholders including Trout Unlimited. Dominion Power, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, a preliminary study of the effects of week-end releases from Philpott Dam on



New Access at Fieldale

the Smith River has been completed and results will soon be avail-

R&T will present public programs on the first Thursday of every other month from 5:30 to 6:15 PM prior to the business portion of the steering committee meetings. The September 7 program highlighted the horse riding community, featuring Gene Stone, a park ranger at Fairystone State Park, and Cheryl Hoffman, a park ranger at Philpott Dam, who described serving the equestrian community at their respective parks. The next program meeting November 5 will showcase Water Quality Monitoring and the Trout in the Classroom submitted by Ellen Jessee project.

CHINQUA-PENN TRAIL GRANT AWARDED

The Annie Penn Community Trust (APCT) has awarded a \$24,999 grant to DRBA for the Chingua-Penn Trail, Partnering with the Rockingham County Naturalist Club and the Upper Piedmont Research Station, owner of the property where the 1.7-mile loop is located. DRBA received the grant to improve a portion of the trail and build a boardwalk alongside Betsy Pond, replacing a narrow path. The boardwalk should be completed by mid-October.

This is the second APCT grant for the trail. A 2005 grant funded erosion control, a parking lot, and a full-color brochure, which has been distributed across Rockingham County through fitness centers and doctors' offices. As stated in its mission. the trust supports programs that "improve the health, wellness, and quality of life of the people in Rockingham County."

Notes Mike Vaughan, Naturalist Club president and former DRBA Board member who has administered both grants, regular trail users include heart patients, those recovering from surgery, elderly citizens, and families. A guest register at the trailhead lists a wide range of individuals and groups, including numerous youngsters.

The trail winds up and down hills through a mature hardwood forest; past two ponds that harbor muskrats, water birds, frogs and turtles; beside stone structures built in the 1920s by Jeff and Betsy Penn for entertaining their guests; and next to pastures where prize-winning Black Angus cattle graze.

Located just west of Reidsville adjacent to Chinqua-Penn Plantation, the trail is open seven days a week, year-round. Leashed pets are welcome. For specific directions, call the research station office at 336-349-8347.



Join us for

Welcome to DRBA's FIRST Third Saturday Outing

October 21, 2006

Hike the beautiful **DeHart Botanical Gardens** and enjoy a cookout after at the home of Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick 1342 Commerce Street Street, VA

11:00 arrival to the home of Wayne and Betty Kirlmatrick in Smart, VA ol to the DeHart Botanical Gardens to enjoy a brick hike amongst the fall foliage Return to a "Potinci-" Cookset

Don't feel like hiking? Lookin' like rain? Come for the meal at 5:00.

Bring it with von!

a bag lunch drink for the bike a chair boduck for the cookout (refrigurator svaliable)

We've got it here!

hotdog: hamburgers and all the fixin's beverages

*Route SWY to Strart, left on Woodland Road, left on Commerce, over the river, first house on the right (30 minutes from 58 220 merge)

Email your questions to Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick at wynbty@earthlink.net or call 276/694-4449. RSVP with your "potluck" by Sunday, October 15.

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Dorcas Midkiff

Associate Editor T Butler

Contributing Writers:

Forrest Altman Gloria Best Lindley Butler T Butler Katherine Hebert

Ellen Jessee Betty Kirkpatrick Paul May Andrew Talbert

Photography:

T Butler Paul Johnson Jeff Johnston David Rotenizer Robin Yount



CASWELL TRAILS: THE GOOD NEWS AND THE BAD

There's lots of good news from Horsemen's Association. The Caswell Trails. Here's a partial Historical Association list:

In the first half of 2006, more than doubled.

Trails are popping up all over Caswell County.

The Caswell County Recreation Commission asked the County Commission for permission to create a Trail Task ber was less than stellar. Force.

The county Commission Approved

We've made contact with the

many officials.

We're picking up speed and Caswell membership in DRBA support, with the help of our new Executive Director.

A couple of faithful members DRBA's November First Saturare having fun and rolling up day Outing will be held on prospective trails in Caswell County.

> The only bad news is that attendance at two hiking/picnic events in August and Septem-

> If you're a member of Caswell DRBA and not yet connected, come and join in the fun!

submitted by Forrest Altman

HATS ARE HER F!

Stop by the Mayodan office to purchase your new Dan River Basin Association hat, embroidered with the DRBA logo by Ann Ramsey of Madison. The khaki caps are stylishly trimmed with a navy adjustable strap so that one size fits all. A few



lucky members wore them on the September paddle trip and enjoyed the good fit and the glare-reducing navy lining on the bill. We thank Harold Knight for handling the selection and arranging the embroidery. Caps are \$15 at the office and \$18 by mail.

MEMBERSHIPS RECEIVED JUNE- AUGUST, 2006

Steward Scott W. Younkin

Corporate Caswell County Historical Association

Family James Allen Claire Helgeson and John Lamiman Karen and Steve Oestreicher Kim and John Steffan

Individual Susan Anderson Jeff Bliss Glenn Bozorth Madison Dry Goods Katherine Mull William Renyer

DONATIONS RECEIVED APRIL - AUGUST, 2006

Sponsor Mark and Carol Boles Ken Bridle Joe and Ellen Jessee Dr. Roy Truslow Will and Mary Truslow

Protector Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick Ted Penn

Steward Barry Dunkley Paul Ferguson Garland Rakestraw

Benefactor Mark Bishopric Lincoln Financial Group Foundation Barbara Solomon Tom Taylor

> Friend Lloyd Taylor

DAN RIVER BASIN **ASSOCIATION**

PRESERVING THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES OF THE DAN RIVER BASIN By Promoting Stewardship, Recreation and Education

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Visit us on the web at WWW.DANRIVER.ORG

First Saturday Outings

October 7: Batteau Trip Danville to Milton

October 21 DeHart Gardens Hike See page 7

November 4: Caswell County Hike

December 2: Sprig outing on Upper Little River



I have never seen a river that I could not love. Moving water . . . has a fascinating vitality. It has power and grace and associations. It has a thousand colors and a thousand shapes, yet it follows laws so definite that the tiniest streamlet is an exact replica of a great river.

Roderick Haig-Brown

DR BA OPEN HOUSE SLATED FOR NOVEMBER 9

Mark your calendar for the Dan River Basin Association's open house and ribboncutting for the new Mayodan office on Thursday, November 9 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Over refreshments you'll have an opportunity to chat with the Association's officers, staff and Board members and to see the office, located at 103 South Second Avenue in Mayodan, NC.

Look for an official invitation closer to the occasion.

HELP MEET THE CHALLENGE!

cess as an all-volunteer organization, the Dan individual and corporate gifts. River Basin Association decided to seek grants needs.

Realizing that full-time staff was cruoffered a challenge gift for the Association to your check "Challenge Gift." match. The Board accepted this challenge and

After four years of extraordinary suc- to date has raised about 50% of the match in

It is not often that you have the opporfor professional staff to continue the organiza- tunity for your gift to double. We call on each tion's momentum. The Virginia staff was fully DRBA member to make a tax-deductible contrifunded by a generous grant from The Harvest bution toward this challenge. Each dollar that Foundation, but grants for North Carolina op- you donate will be matched. Your gift of \$50 erations funded only one-quarter of DRBA's will become \$100; your \$100 will become \$200; your \$500 will become \$1000.

Please mail your contribution to cial for DRBA's growth, two Board members DRBA, Box 65, Mayodan, NC 27027, and mark