



DAN RIVER BASIN

ASSOCIATION

Preserving
and
Promoting
the
Natural
and
Cultural
Resources
of the
Dan River
Basin
through
Stewardship,
Recreation
and
Education

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Volume 6, Issue 3

Summer 2007

DRBA OPENS HEADQUARTERS OFFICE IN EDEN

The Dan River Basin Association has a new home in the historic Spray Mercantile building, at 413 Church Street, Suite 401, Eden, NC 27288. The Association's new telephone number is 336-627-6270.

Mike Dougherty, Director of Business Development for the City of Eden, welcomed the organization to the city. "On behalf of the city we are thrilled to have the Dan River Basin Association in the City of Eden. DRBA's work here complements our river promotion initiatives, and DRBA is critical to the City's efforts."

Over the past year, the City of Eden has invited DRBA representatives to serve on a number of river, tourism, and land development committees and work groups.

According to Executive Director Katherine Mull, "DRBA's new location is central to the area we serve, and the Spray Mercantile building, with its courtyard and views of the water, is a perfect setting for an organization such as ours. Our new location in Eden gives us easier access to our Virginia office and to the eastern half of the Dan River watershed."

The organization's office suite is located on the upper floor of the building, which was renovated in 1983 by Spray Cotton Mills. The building, located between the Smith River and the Spray Canal, also houses other businesses and, on the lower level, Three Rivers Outfitters and Troublesome Creek Outfitters.

Katherine Mull



Artist Leigh Rodenbough and his brother, Charles, have donated two prints of Leigh's painting, "October on the Dan River," to hang in the Dan River Basin Association's offices in Eden and Collinsville.

Both Charles and Leigh were involved in the creation of the work. Although they and their families were long-time residents of Madison, NC, living in sight of the Dan River, Charles, an avid history buff, had not seen the historic batteau structures in the Dan first-hand. At his request, Lindley and T Butler and Jeff Johnston took him on a day-long trip in late October 2001 to see the structures.

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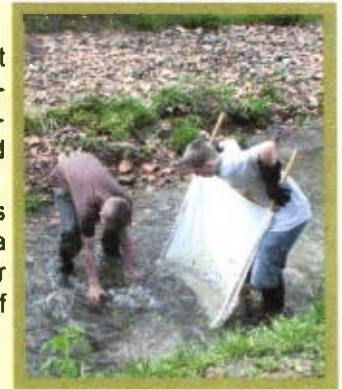
TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM 2007

"Oh, there goes my fish, I hope it will be okay, 'bye little trout!'"

Excitement, trepidation, much joy and a little sadness could be found at each of the trout releases that brought this year's Trout in the Classroom program to a close. Since October, when students in five area school systems received the egg stage of the brown trout, classroom activities have revolved around a study of conservation of our natural surroundings.

DRBA's continued partnership with TIC began in early January as Wayne Kirkpatrick and Ashley Parham visited Carver Elementary to present a study on how healthy rivers and streams support the trout. A classroom "critter pickin' pond" taught the lifecycle of macroinvertebrates so important to survival of the trout.

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greetings from the Director



These past few months have been an exciting and busy time. There are so many important projects on behalf of our rivers and community, and volunteers are needed to help in so many ways. If you think you can spare even an

hour or two, please give us a call at 336.627.6270. Following is a small sampler of some of DRBA's recent activities:

Feasibility Study for a Mayo River State Park in Virginia and Scenic River Status of the North and South Mayo Rivers

In mid-June, DRBA hosted two river trips for the Virginia Department of Conservation. These trips allowed VA state parks planning staff to conduct field assessments for a state park feasibility study and for scenic river status for the North Mayo and South Mayo rivers in VA.



Members of the Mayo River study team enjoy the view from historic Byrd's Ledge on the North Mayo River near the NC/VA state line. From left to right, Roger Adams, Henry County Parks and Recreation; Doug Shumate, Troublesome Creek Outfitters; Benny Summerlin, Henry County Administrator; Derrel Jones, VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation listen as Lindley Butler, Dan River Basin Association and Rockingham County, NC historian recounts the story of William Byrd's historic survey of the NC/VA "dividing line."

These two rivers join together to form the Mayo River at the Virginia/North Carolina state line. Joining the trips were staff from the NC State Parks and Henry County, VA. All were impressed by the remoteness and beauty of these two rivers, and it was clear that the North Mayo and South Mayo merit scenic river status.

This area is adjacent to the Mayo River State Park in NC. Any future state park in VA would provide critical protection for sections of this scenic river corridor. DRBA wishes to thank Three Rivers Outfitters of Eden, NC (www.3-r-o.com) for their loan of paddling gear and to NC State Parks and Lindley Butler for the loan of canoes.

More information is at www.danriver.org in DRBA News.

Tracking Water Quality in the Rivers

As part of a comprehensive stewardship initiative, DRBA is monitoring water quality in portions of the Dan, Smith and Mayo rivers. This information will allow DRBA and others to better target management actions in the region. Many thanks are due to Meritech Laboratories of Reidsville, NC and the Rockingham County, NC Partnership for Economic and Tourism Development for their generous contributions and financial support of this most valuable project. Thanks also go to former DRBA board member Mike Vaughan for his design of the Standard Operating Procedure, among other contributions.

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PRESIDENT'S SPACE

I would like to greatly congratulate David Jones, DDS and our DRBA Vice President, Wayne Kirkpatrick, for both being recipients of the 2007 Virginia Environmental Stewardship Awards in the individual and communications categories, respectively.

David Jones was the driving force in establishing the Trout in the Classroom program in the Martinsville and Henry County school systems, which will be discussed in more detail in this issue of *Currents*.

Wayne Kirkpatrick was trained by Virginia Save Our Streams in rocky and muddy bottom stream monitoring techniques. He has monitored countless

streams and taught many others how to do so by identifying macroinvertebrates. Wayne has been nominated by Governor Kaine to be on the Virginia Water Advisory Board.

I give much applause for these two men's effectiveness and tireless effort in promoting learning of the trout lifecycle and monitoring streams.

Other brief notes: The feasibility study is underway for a Virginia Mayo River State Park and possible designation of scenic river status. An open house meeting was held June 21 in Horsepasture to present the VA Dept. of Recreation and Parks' initial evaluation for each. Also, planning for the development of the

Gravelly Nature Preserve is underway, to include a picnic shelter, restoration of several tobacco barns, and a network of trails. This preserve is close to the new Marrowbone River Access on the Smith.



Will Truslow

SUMMER THIRD SATURDAY OUTINGS

1 APRIL 21 AT WHITE OAK MOUNTAIN

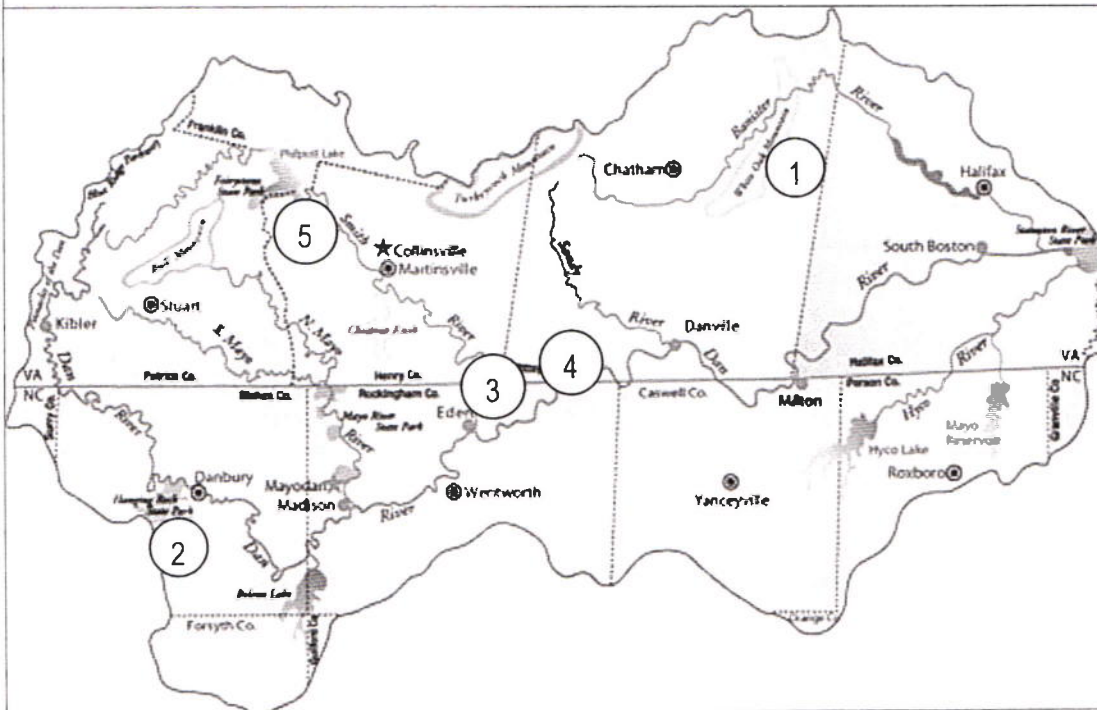
Nine DRBA members from five counties attended the season's first Third Saturday Outing, a hike of the Hiawatha Nature Trail in White Oak Mountain Wildlife Management Area. We descended from the parking area a half mile to the Banister River, which runs along the northern border of the area.

As we approached the river we found trout lilies, wild ginger and ironwood along the trail. Hikers who had never seen this stretch of the river were surprised at how wide and deep it is, thanks to a low dam downstream at Motley's Mill. After following

the Banister a short distance, the trail climbs through a thicket of mountain laurel ending at a scenic overlook. The impressive rock outcropping provided the perfect picnic spot with a grand view of the Banister.

We returned to the parking area on a half-mile road that passes one of the Wildlife Management's twelve small ponds. The highlight of our trip was seeing a beaver lodge on the shore of the pond, with recently chewed tree branches nearby. The open area around the pond was excellent for bird sightings.

—Paul Johnson



2 MAY 19 AT HANGING ROCK

Twenty DRBA members gathered on May 19th for a hike on private property that lies on the south side of Hanging Rock Mountain, extending to the rocky walls of the mountain and bounded on the north, west, and south by the State Park. Our group saw several species of wild flowers, including the Federally endangered Schwinitz sunflower. The mountain laurel was in full bloom, and rhododendron had just started blooming.

Ben Lackey

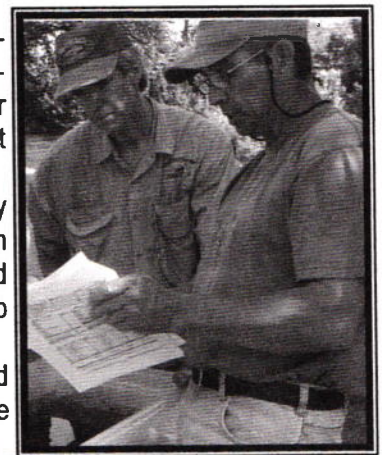
2007 VIRGINIA ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

On June 26 DRBA members Wayne Kirkpatrick and Dr. David Jones received the 2007 Virginia Environmental Stewardship Awards in the Communications and Individual categories, respectively, at a luncheon hosted by VA Secretary of Natural Resources Preston Bryant. Their honors, for their contributions to water quality monitoring and the Trout in the Classroom program, mark the first time two VES awards have gone to the same organization.

Wayne Kirkpatrick, vice president of DRBA, also serves on VA Citizens for Water Quality Monitoring and the VA Water Center Statewide Advisory Board. A semi-retired dairy farmer from Stuart, he teaches Virginia Save Our Streams water quality monitoring methods to students and teachers in Patrick, Henry, Franklin, Pittsylvania, and Halifax county schools. He and his critter tub are a consistent presence at fairs, festivals, and school activities promoting our streams and DRBA.

Dr. David Jones, a member of the Martinsville-Henry County Rivers and Trails Group and Trout Unlimited, has contributed his time and financial support to bring TU's national Trout in the Classroom program to the local school systems. His efforts have brought national attention to the TIC program as well as the Smith River and its trout population.

—Kathy Hebert



2007 Virginia Environmental Stewardship award winners Wayne Kirkpatrick, right, and Dr David Jones.

3 APRIL 2007: Smith River Hike

Thanks to Mark Bishopric, Jeff Johnston, and Steve Rippey of Three Rivers Outfitters, our group had a great time hiking and paddling on our April 7 First Saturday outing. A path along the old Spray Canal supplied the route for our walk among the remnants of the historic industrial complex of the previous two centuries while also providing a vantage point to observe several mallards and many Canada geese.

We 25 hikers received a historical tour of the Spray Mercantile grounds and a walk back in time to the century-old engineering and technology that was the foundation of the textile industry in this area. One can't help but be reminded of the bountiful resources of this region as Lindley Butler pointed out the nineteenth-century dam, canal head gates, and various mill buildings left by the industrious inhabitants drawn here by the river's water power.

The discharge from Philpott Lake in Virginia provided a swift flow on the Smith River for the brave paddlers who launched their six canoes just upstream of the Spray Bridge and headed to the Eden Wildlife access ramp. Fortunately, there were no swimmers because, if you remember, our premature summer had disappeared by April 7th, and the chilly winds of winter had returned.

Paul and Patty May

4 MAY 2007 : Eden to Berry Hill

Cloudy skies contrasted with 21 colorful boats and 26 big smiles on DRBA's first Saturday in May. Rain threatened but held off throughout the day.

The day began at the NC 700 Bridge in Eden, NC and proceeded to Berry Hill Bridge on the Virginia line. As we paddled, ospreys flew overhead, and an eagle was seen tussling with one over a fish. I believe the eagle was victorious. The sweet scent of honeysuckle wafted through the air. In the distance Bobwhite quail called to each other.

As we came upon the confluence with Cascade Creek we encountered a Blue Heron rookery with several nests, some with chicks. The nests looked like messy piles of sticks, too flimsy to support such large birds. After a relaxing lunch and good conversation at Devil's Jump Rock, we were treated to a couple of easily negotiated but still fun rapids, the first at Tanyard Shoals Sluice and the second at Beasley's Gallows Sluice. As I said, they were fun, especially if you wanted to spin around to try to surf a wave.

As the take out appeared, I remarked to a fellow paddlers, "I'm not ready to go home yet; this feels too good here, a community of boaters having a great day on the river."

I am looking forward to seeing everyone again soon.

Will Renyer

DRBA Cited for Spring Litter Cleanups

Piles of orange bags from roadside litter pickups. Trailer-loads of trash from a dump site on new state park property. And a prize-winning treadmill.

These were all retrieved during DRBA's April and June litter cleanups, which involved teams working in five different sites across Rockingham County.

As a participant in Spring Litter Sweep, DRBA received a \$50 prize from the Rockingham County Beautification Council. A Certificate of Appreciation came from Governor Mike Easley and Secretary of Transportation Lyndo Tippet for DRBA's "commitment to preserving the environment of North Carolina" through participation in NC DOT's spring cleanup campaign.

In the contest for Most Unusual Litter found during the state's cleanup, the treadmill found

beside NC 14 in Reidsville garnered the \$100 second place prize given by the NCDOT Office of Beautification Programs.

Finally, the teams who retrieved a record-breaking load of trash from old dump sites on property recently acquired for the Mayo River State Park earned delighted praise from park superintendent Adrienne Wallace. "The sites look great," she commented. "And several DRBA members even came with me to the landfill to unload the trailers."

Those of us with a long history of cleaning up litter with DRBA volunteers aren't surprised. "That's the biggest load of trash I've ever had on my trailer," commented Milton Hundley, veteran of years of cleanups. And, you can be sure, that's saying a lot!

T Butler



Volunteer Susan Taylor with the prize-winning treadmill.



5 JUNE 2007: Otter Creek Paddle

Thirteen folks enjoyed a kayak/canoe trip on Philpott Lake Saturday, June 2. Putting in at Iron Bridge they traveled about an hour to the "falls" on Otter Creek.

Philpott Lake is a hidden jewel in our region—especially this northwest corner of the lake, which is clean, lightly traveled, and beautiful. The Army Corps of Engineers, which owns the lake and the surrounding land, allows no private development, and the area remains almost pristine. Motor boats are relatively few and small.

The lake narrows into a channel surrounded by forested hills. Unusual plants and animals add to every trip. This writer saw the following: mountain laurel in bloom, the largest jack-in-the-pulpit ever, two deer, a water snake, tadpoles, and miscellaneous birds and fish. A lesson in right footed snails (the kind that live in clean water and dot the Otter Creek rocks) was provided over lunch.

Jim Tobin

DRBA RECEIVES STEWARDSHIP GRANT

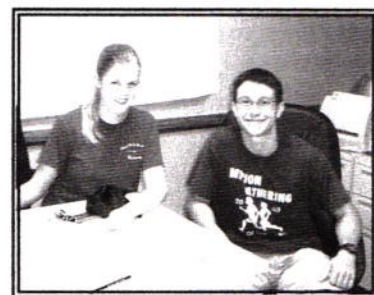
L.L. Bean and the American Canoe Association have awarded the Dan River Basin Association a Club-Fostered Stewardship Grant in the amount of \$700 to support DRBA's efforts to improve recreation and water quality on the Dan River and its tributaries. DRBA is one of several organizations around the U.S. to receive such awards from L.L. Bean and the ACA.



The grant will support DRBA's work toward educating the public on the importance of streamside buffers and will help provide matching funds for a \$12,500 award by CONTECH Stormwater Solutions of Portland, Oregon. As noted in a previous issue of *Currents*, streamside trees are a river's last and best defense against pollution, and they are also essential to good fish and wildlife habitat.

SERVICE TRAINING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS INTERNS

This summer, DRBA is hosting two interns from Virginia Tech's Service Training for Environmental Progress (STEP) Program. Doreen Davis and Philip Hash are assessing 5.5 miles of Jordan Creek in Henry County, searching for possible sources of E. coli contamination and evidence of stream bank erosion. Their findings will assist DRBA and the Department of Environmental Quality in locating areas for future restoration projects.



Doreen and Philip are both rising seniors majoring in Environmental Studies, Doreen at the University of Mary Washington and Philip at Roanoke College. When asked what they have enjoyed most about the project so far, Doreen said she "really enjoyed hearing from the different points of view concerning the

problems that face Jordan Creek. Meeting the people that live and work around Jordan Creek has shown me how much a small creek can impact their daily lives." Philip shares this sentiment and adds that he has "been pleasantly surprised at the number of people who are genuinely concerned about Jordan Creek."

—Kathy Hebert

DEDICATION OF THE CHINQUA-PENN WALKING TRAIL BOARDWALK

A ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 12th marked the official opening of the handsome new boardwalk on the Chinqua-Penn Walking Trail. This structure was built using a grant received from the Annie Penn Community Trust by DRBA, the Upper Piedmont Research Station of NC State University, and the Rockingham County Naturalist Club.

Thirty-eight people attended the ceremony. Speakers were Katherine Mull, DRBA's executive director; Joe French, superintendent of the Research Station; Mike Vaughan, president of the Naturalist Club; Craig Cardwell, executive director of the Annie Penn Community Trust; and Harold Bass, chairman of the Rockingham County Commissioners.

Mr. Bass spoke for all when he emphasized that the residents of the county are grateful to NC State for hosting the Trail on the Station's property, providing superb recreational and therapeutic walking to the public. He also mentioned the importance in a technological age of exposing the public to the farming operations surrounding the Trail, allowing children to see how cattle are raised and row crops are grown and harvested. All of these points are in line with DRBA's goals.

—Mike Vaughan



Milton Hundley, Katherine Mull, Aileen Dyson, and T Butler cutting the ribbon at dedication ceremony.

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM 2007

Water Quality Monitoring

continued from front page



Dr. David Jones, long sleeve shirt, Wayne Kirkpatrick, navy shirt, and Virginia Governor Tim Kaine join students at TIC release.

Students from Woolwine Elementary, Rich Acres Elementary, Laurel Park Middle School and Fieldale/Collinsville Middle School were led through stream monitoring tactics during the spring semester.

May was the culmination of all the hard work by teachers and students alike. More than 17 schools and organizations hosting trout tanks, involving over 1000 students, released over 2000 brown trout fingerlings into the Smith River. Spectators present to witness a successful end to this great project included an enthusiastic special guest, Virginia Governor Tim Kaine.

Teachers working with TIC have incorporated studies across the curriculum, involving math, life sciences, chemistry, ecology, the fine arts, reading and spelling. The privilege of becoming a caretaker serves as positive reinforcement and encourages good behavior.

Dr. David Jones, who initiated the project through Trout Unlimited, related a story told to him by one of the TIC teachers. Soon after the trout tank was up and running, a student who had been in trouble academically began taking an interest in the trout and often asked to come early in the day to help care for the tank. As time went on, this student's attitude, behavior and academic work improved remarkably.

Many of the TIC teachers echo this theme when discussing the benefits of incorporating the trout study in their classroom—a better attention span, fewer disciplinary problems, and happy students willing to learn.

Interest and excitement about the TIC project continues to climb. Additional schools have inquired about sponsoring a tank, and parents are competing to have their children placed in classrooms with a trout tank. Representatives of Mary Baldwin College attended one of the DRBA presentations to observe the educational program and visit a trout tank, hoping to expand the TIC program across Southside Virginia.

The partnership between DRBA and TIC creates a broad and effective educational resource for teachers, helps instill the pride of community, and builds a future generation of caretakers of our natural resources. For DRBA, this program develops good will within the community, positive relationships with many state agencies, and rapport with area and state leaders, all of which will be beneficial in our future endeavors.

Wayne Kirkpatrick

"OCTOBER ON THE DAN RIVER"

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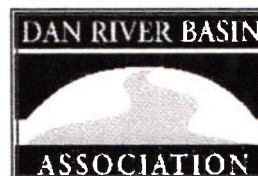
As he rode in the bow of Lindley's canoe, Charles snapped a photo of T and Jeff with Jeff's white setter, Guy, in a red canoe on the dark blue river framed by golden leaves. Captivated by the beauty of the photo, Leigh created a painting in pastels of the scene.

A delighted Katherine Hebert described the print as "one of the most beautiful things I have ever seen," and pondered whether to put it in the reception area of her Collinsville suite to share with visitors or hang it in her office "so I can sit and look at it more often."

In the new Eden office, Katherine Mull placed the print above the large model of a batteau created by Mike Covey and Dorcas Midkiff—an appropriate location for a work of art indirectly stimulated by interest in the history of the batteaux on the Dan.

"We are very grateful to Leigh and Charlie for their generosity to DRBA," stated Lindley Butler. "Nothing could be more appropriate for our offices than this subject, rendered so beautifully by such a talented artist as Leigh."

T Butler



MEMBERSHIPS RECEIVED MARCH — MAY 2007

Protector Kenny Craig

Family

Jeffrey and Jean Bullins
Michael and Nancy Dameron
Ralph and Julie Ganis
Greg and Phyllis Gendron
Jimmy W. Jones Jr.
Bob and Pat Moore
Dennis, Sharon and Leslie
Reeves

Individual

Frank Agnew
Jim Belcher
Nancy S Garner
Clay Gravely
John Grooms
Jennifer Phillips
Doug Shumate
Jeremy Tyson

Donations Protector

Lindley and T Butler

Benefactor

Piedmont Surveying and Design
PC

Friend

Alidean S Roberson

Other

Clay S Gravely
Wayne Kirkpatrick

Special Gift Contributions

Allison Snow Jones and David
O Pinney
Patricia J Sisson
Will and Mary Truslow
Dr. Roy Truslow

In Honor Of

Jimmy and Dorothy Jones from
Jimmy W. Jones Jr.

DIRECTORS NOTES

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Participating in River Clean Up Plans and Cross-Border Collaboration

At the request of NC and VA state agencies, DRBA, as the only watershed-wide stewardship organization, is participating in NC and VA mandated clean up plans (referred to as Total Maximum Daily Loads) for the Dan River and its tributar-



An excellent example of interstate cooperation in support of the Dan River, from left, Wayne Kirkpatrick, DRBA vice president; Lauren Theodore, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VA DEQ); Nora Deamer, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other staff from NC and Virginia share ideas at the first stakeholders' meeting in South Boston Virginia at a meeting hosted by VA DEQ to address protection and restoration of water quality in Dan River.

ies. Most notable is the fact that NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Quality, traveled to South Boston, VA for a meeting regarding the Dan River. This exemplary cooperative working relationship between NC and VA officials will be a major advantage as we work together across the region to make sure that our rivers are as healthy as they can be.

Parks, Trails and "Complete Streets" for Henry County, VA

DRBA's work in Henry County, VA, funded by the Harvest Foundation, has forged ahead, with the execution of plans for

development of low-impact facilities at the Smith River Gravelly Nature Preserve and a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Smith River Fieldale Trail, a one-mile greenway along the river.

Rich Killingsworth, new executive director of the Harvest Foundation in Martinsville, VA, invited DRBA staff and others to attend a workshop by the national Complete Streets Coalition. "Complete Streets" include bike lanes and sidewalks, and this program may soon be an element of a comprehensive effort toward making the Martinsville and Henry County area an active, livable community.

"Fun, Safety and Skills" on the River

Finally, in June, DRBA offered members a chance to pick up river skills on a low-key "Paddle



Ellen and Joe Jessee execute an eddy turn on the Dan River near Madison, NC while coach Richard Hopley (in yellow canoe) looks on.

Trip with Pointers." The remains of the batteau navigation system in the river provided fine opportunities to practice eddy turns, ferries and basic river reading skills. Many thanks are due to volunteers Richard Hopley and Alison Snow-Jones of Winston-Salem, NC, who shared their knowledge of river safety, water reading, and moving water techniques. Another round of thanks is due to Glen Bozorth of the Dan River Campground (www.danrivercamping.com), who, on a very busy weekend, graciously allowed DRBA to park vehicles and take out of the river at the campground.

Katherine Mull

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Vice President, Wayne Kirkpatrick
Treasurer, Mark Bishopric
Secretary, T Butler
Corresponding Secretary, Barbara Solomon

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WWW.DANRIVER.ORG

DRBA Outings

July 7

Mayo River, Anglin Mill to 770

August 4

Dan River, Stokes County and
Dan River Boat Race, Madison

September 1

Banister River,
Halifax to South Boston

October 6

Dan River cleanup trip,
Rockingham County

October 20

Third Saturday, Hike DeHart
Botanical Gardens, Stuart.
Covered dish at Kirkpatrick
home.

DAN RIVER BASIN



PRESERVING AND PROMOTING THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES OF THE
DAN RIVER BASIN

through Stewardship, Recreation and Education

*The first river you paddle runs through the rest of your life.
It bubbles up in pools and eddies to remind you who you are.*

Lynn Noel

BATTEAU RESCUED

Thanks to a winter storm and swollen rivers, the batteau *Dan River* spent the past six months in two pieces on the bottom of its namesake river. But in late spring, with the combined efforts of Three Rivers Outfitters and the Eden Fire and Rescue, the 40-foot-long batteau was finally hauled to shore. The rescuers tied fire hoses inside the vessel and inflated the hoses with scuba tanks, giving the 8,000-pound craft some buoyancy and enabling volunteer rescuers to pole the batteau to its trailer to be hauled out for repair. Once the parts are re-joined, the bat-



teau will again be available for special events, festivals, moonlight trips, river cruises and other activities.

For information, please call Three Rivers Outfitters at 336-627-6215.

