

A fly fisherman with a beard and a white cap is shown in profile, wearing a red jacket and waders, fishing in a river. The background is a lush green forest. The title 'CURRENTS' is written in large, light green, serif capital letters across the top. Above it, in smaller white text, is 'The Newsletter of the Dan River Basin Association'. Below the title, in white text, are 'DANRIVER.ORG' and 'VOLUME 10, ISSUE 3 • SUMMER 2011'. At the bottom, in large, bold, yellow, sans-serif capital letters, are the main topics: 'NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR', 'URANIUM MINING THREAT', and 'RIVERS AND TRAILS UPDATES'.

The Newsletter of the Dan River Basin Association

CURRENTS

DANRIVER.ORG

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 3 • SUMMER 2011

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
URANIUM MINING THREAT
RIVERS AND TRAILS UPDATES



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Meetings of the DRBA Board of Directors are held on the second Wednesday of February, May, August and November.

The next meeting will be held August 10, 2011, 5 p.m. at Eden City Hall.

CURRENTS

Staff

Editor: T Butler
Graphic Design: David Pinney



Cover: Fly fishing in the Kibler Valley.
-photograph by Brian Williams

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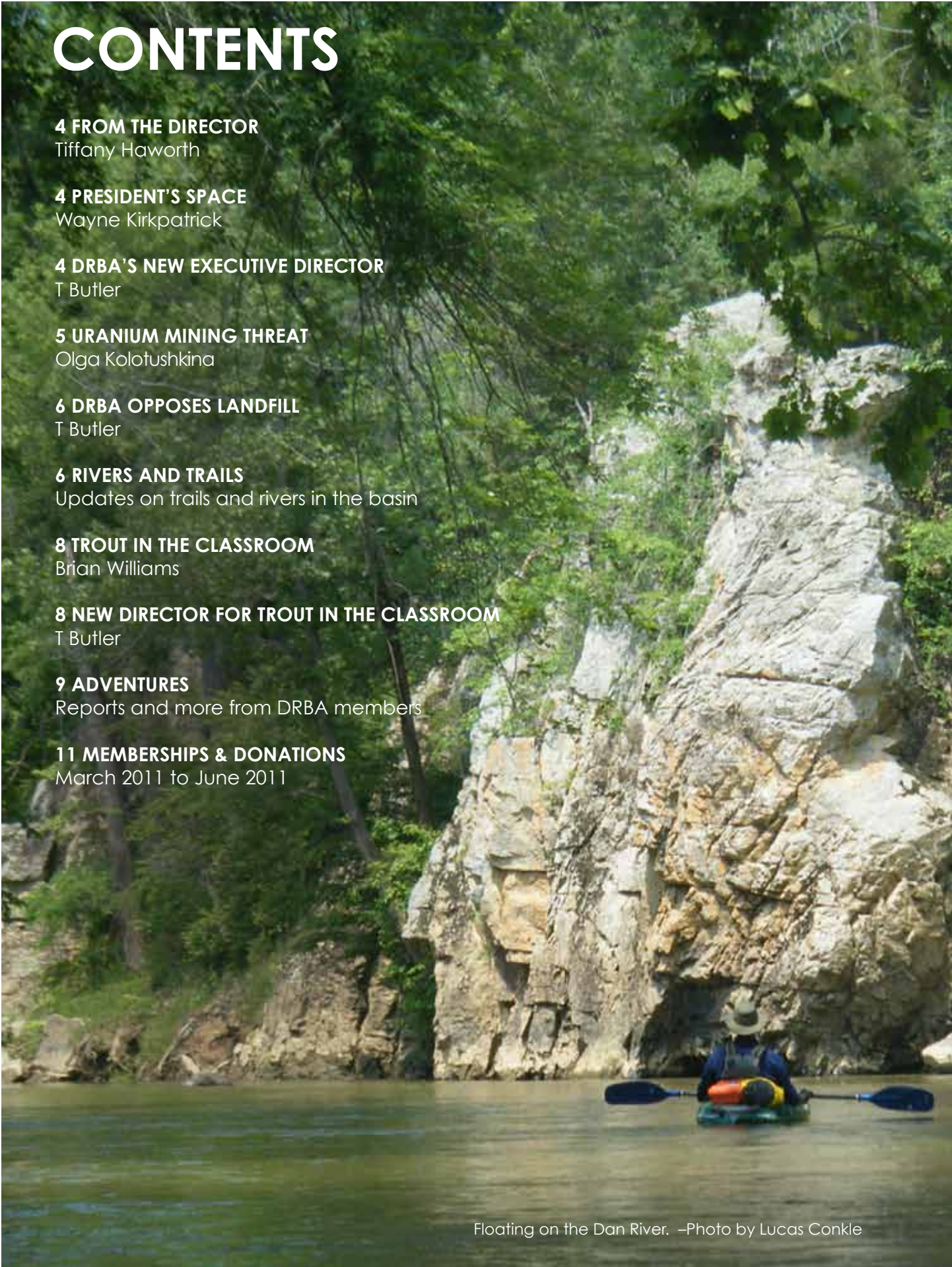
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March 2011 to June 2011

A photograph of a person in a blue kayak on a river. The kayaker is wearing a hat and a life jacket. The background is a large, light-colored rock formation with green foliage on top. The water is calm and reflects the surrounding environment.

Floating on the Dan River. –Photo by Lucas Conkle

FROM THE DIRECTOR



As DRBA's new Executive Director, I first want to say to each of you, "Thank You" for your commitment, and your passion, for the Dan River Basin. Before I joined the DRBA staff, I was a member just like you. I invested my trust in DRBA to protect and preserve the

Dan River Basin. Now I'm waist deep in the water, so to speak, and I can honestly tell you – your membership makes an enormous impact.

Even in the midst of record-breaking heat, the DRBA team is working overtime throughout the basin. We're developing new trails and river access points in five localities; we've launched the Explorer's Program day camp for kids; we held our first Sojourn; we provided a Sustainable Farm Tour to teach eco-friendly agricultural practices; and our second Rivers & Bugs Summit was a huge success.

Extending our reach beyond the basin, we received full scholarships to go to the National River Rally in Charleston, SC to network with other watershed organizations. We served on the Eden, NC delegation to Kansas City to present DRBA's successes, helping win the All American City title. We served as an advisor for the regional Eden Watershed Assessment Project.

Did I mention all of this has occurred since I started my new position on May 2nd?

Your membership does all of that *and* provides for DRBA in the Classroom projects, First Saturday Outings, water quality testing, and so much more. I challenge you to find a better investment with your philanthropy anywhere!

One of the reasons we can all enjoy our trails and rivers is because of the high level of energy DRBA spends protecting our resources. Our protection efforts become even more critical knowing that we are facing serious threats right now. Potential Uranium mining, toxic landfill development, and hydraulic fracturing (or fracking) even further validate DRBA's value.

We take our mission of preserving and protecting our natural resources very seriously and have dedicated hundreds of hours and financial resources toward keeping our promise to you: working to keep the Dan River Basin's rivers and trails safe, healthy and sustainable for future generations. I urge you to visit www.keeptheban.org right now and learn more about the pending Uranium mining in Pittsylvania County. It will affect everyone in the Dan River Basin and beyond.

DRBA engages in all of these activities to build economic development and quality of life throughout the Dan River region. I am so grateful for your support and deeply value your continued commitment. I also look forward to meeting you at our upcoming events and on our rivers and trails!

–Tiffany Haworth

PRESIDENT'S SPACE



It is my pleasure to welcome DRBA Executive Director, Tiffany Haworth, to the organization and to the pages of Currents. Tiffany brings with her tremendous leadership experience and the promise of renewed energy to continue DRBA's growth in the area. Welcome

Tiffany, to Team DRBA

With the downturn of the economy, more folks than ever before are staying close to home. Festivals,

trail-building events and celebrations continue to provide DRBA the opportunity to promote our mission. The volunteers representing DRBA at these events have been positive, immediate and much appreciated. On behalf of DRBA, I extend my sincere thanks for helping to make these events successful. Thank you, Team DRBA!

I hope each of you are enjoying friends and family during the summer – and whether near or far, Play! Learn! Care!

–Wayne Kirkpatrick

FEATURES

DRBA Welcomes Our New Executive Director

"Going green and protecting the environment are not only good for the earth, but good for people, too," says Tiffany Haworth, DRBA's new executive director. "We all know that fresh air, clean water and exercise can help our bodies, but preservation of our natural resources is also good for our economy. It can draw businesses and tourists to the area, making our communities economically stronger."

Haworth, a native of Ohio with a degree from Rutgers University, has experience working in both the corporate and non-profit worlds in Illinois, New Jersey, and New York. Since 2004 she was with United Way in Martinsville, where she created new partnerships and programs to achieve community outcomes and conducted workshops and training for dozens of organizations and businesses.



Tiffany Haworth

"DRBA's Board and staff welcome Tiffany to Team DRBA and look forward to working together to further the Association's mission and vision," says Wayne Kirkpatrick, DRBA President. "Her experience with non-profit and private businesses will be a great asset for the entire Dan River region."

"We've known Tiffany through her workshops and consultations with our board and staff," says DRBA Secretary T Butler. "Since she arrived in May, she has hit the ground running and brought new ideas and energy to us, continuing and building on the great work and dedication of our wonderful staff and volunteers."

A frequent user of trails that DRBA has helped to build, Haworth notes, "Once you experience the beauty of our natural resources and understand the cultural history that makes this region unique, you can't help but want to support the efforts of DRBA." Looking ahead, Haworth says, "I share the same passion as the board, the staff and the volunteers in continuing to preserve our natural resources and care for our rivers and streams so that future generations can enjoy outdoor adventures and learn about our local heritage and cultural treasures."

—T Butler

Uranium Mining Threat Recognized

Editor's Note: Olga Kolotushkina has agreed to serve as DRBA's Uranium Mining Task Force spokesperson. Here is her message to DRBA members:

I am truly honored to have been appointed to this position. As a legislative and regulatory advisor for the Roanoke River Basin Association (RRBA), I have been closely following the developments surrounding proposed uranium mining in Virginia. I am very excited about this opportunity to provide technical support to DRBA's new executive director and to represent DRBA on this issue.

Both DRBA and RRBA are members of the newly formed "Keep the Ban" Coalition, www.keeptheban.org and are coordinating our efforts to educate our members and voice our concerns about potential dangers posed by proposed uranium mining to the region's water resources, public health, and local economy.

Some 50 groups and localities in VA and NC are on record supporting Virginia's 30-year ban on uranium mining, including over two dozen counties and municipalities from both states, and such groups as the Buggs Island Striper Club, National Wildlife Federation, Lake Gaston Association, and Bass Federation.

On May 17, 2011, the American Rivers Association named the Roanoke River, which includes Dan River basin, Top Third Most Endangered River in the nation. The designation came after the City of Virginia Beach released a significant research study that showed any failure of an impoundment storing radioactive waste from uranium mining and milling could contaminate the city's drinking water supply for up to two years. The designation does not mean that there is something wrong with the river now; rather, it is a call to action for local and state leaders to protect the river basin's economic and environmental assets.

On May 23, the Roanoke River Basin

Bi-State Commission voted to advise the VA General Assembly to keep the ban on uranium mining at least until 2013 to allow for completion of ongoing studies and to give time for legislators and the public to review and analyze the studies' findings. This action was prompted by concern over public statements by Virginia Uranium, Inc., indicating that VUI has convinced several Virginia legislators to introduce a bill lifting the ban as early as January 2012. Since the National Academy of Sciences report on uranium mining is due in December 2011, rushing to lift the ban only a month later would deny the public such an opportunity.

All of these developments prompted the DRBA Board to pass, during its June meeting, an even stronger resolution in opposition to uranium mining. The full text of the resolution can be found at www.danriver.org.

– Olga Kolotushki

DRBA Opposes Landfill Near Eden

Do *not* build a landfill beside the Dan River! DRBA sent this message to a company seeking to build a private multistate regional landfill on the banks of the Dan River, just upstream from the City of Eden.

On June 8 DRBA's Board of Directors adopted a resolution opposing the landfill, noting that a landfill built right beside the river has "high potential" to contaminate the river, the source of drinking water for thousands. The water intake that serves Eden, MillerCoors Brewing Company, and much of Rockingham County is 2.6 miles downstream of the proposed landfill.

Business leaders have noted that the presence of a landfill on the river would "shut the door" on other businesses and industries that might choose to locate in Eden because of its clean water.

In partnership with DRBA, the City of Eden and Rockingham County have promoted the Dan River for recreation and tourism for nearly a decade, building river accesses and encouraging river-related businesses. Vehicles carrying canoes and kayaks are now a common sight on Rockingham County's roads.

DRBA exists to preserve and promote the Dan River Basin's resources. The resolution states that contamination from a landfill "would jeopardize public health, safety, and welfare" by "polluting the drinking water supply, making the water unsafe for recreation, and causing costly shutdown of residential and industrial users of the river."

The full resolution is at www.danriver.org.

– T Butler

Adding to Caswell Trails

It's trail season in Caswell County, especially in Yanceyville where three ongoing efforts hope to add miles of trail to the ever-growing system by year's end.

Multi-use Trail System Gets Underway: For National Trails Day on June 4, DRBA hosted a trail building day on the property adjacent to Oakwood Elementary School at the end of Sunline Drive. Berndie Lunsford, of Southern Virginia Mountain Biking Association, provided trail building training for volunteers Forrest Altman and Roger Ward. In just three hours, they cleared over a quarter of a mile of a walking, jogging and mountain biking trail.

There are still over 2 miles of trail to be developed on the property and a few small bridges will need to be built, but the airiness of the site should allow for more rapid trail development, especially with continued volunteer assistance.

Stream Walk Trail, Phase 2: At the Caswell Senior Center, 900 feet of corridor was cleared and construction has begun to add to the crusher-run

walking trail started in 2009. After wet weather delays, the gravel is being laid as bridges and boardwalks take form. We'll soon be working with NCDOT to restripe Firetower Road at the Oakwood



A new trail gets underway as volunteers clear a corridor.
–photo Chad Hall

Elementary School zone to mark a crosswalk near the Stream Walk Trail trailhead. Next steps will include connecting to an adjacent day care and developing a link to Maud Gatewood Park.

Yoder's Trail: We now have permission from three property owners to develop a half-mile nature trail that will eventually link Yoder's Market and the Caswell Senior Center. Passing by a lake and following a spring, this meandering trail will provide an option to connect to the Days Inn in Yanceyville, giving guests an opportunity to leave the car parked and walk to the market.

– Chad Hall

Patrick Co. Rivers & Trails

The Patrick County Rivers & Trails Group met on May 19 at the Stuart Campus of PHCC. After some discussion on the current Uranium mining moratorium currently in effect for all of Virginia, the group voted to take a resolution of support to the Patrick County Board of Supervisors.

Wilma Pendleton, of the Patrick County Administration office, spoke on the status of the Mayo River Rail Trail. Phase One construction has begun and is expected to take 60 days. Phase Two funding is secure, with the planning/design stage underway.

Additional discussion proposed initiating a process to develop a master plan for recreation in Patrick County. At the next meeting on July 21, DRBA Executive Director, Tiffany Haworth will detail the steps needed to undertake this task.

–Wayne Kirkpatrick

Rockingham Co. Trails & Greenways

DRBA has received a grant from the Reidsville Area Foundation (RAF) to develop a Trails and Greenways Master Plan for Rockingham County. Charged with demonstrating broad local support for the plan, DRBA has obtained unanimous verbal, in-kind, or funding support from every municipal council in the county, the county's tourism authority, the Board of Commissioners, and Rockingham Community College.

To develop the master plan, DRBA is partnering with the Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC). PTRC's Regional Trails Master Plan, developed over the past several years, is solid groundwork for the Rockingham Trails plan; however, significant

groundwork will need to be put in place during the planning process in order to educate the public about the benefits of trails for health and community, convince decision makers that trail development is beneficial to economic development, and align, revise and vet pilot projects for implementation.

As a pilot project, DRBA has received a \$5,000 grant from REI to construct a multi-use trail linking the new Rockingham County Animal Shelter with the Rockingham County Governmental Center in Wentworth. The trail should be built this year, and the master plan is anticipated to be complete by the end of 2012.

– Fletcher Waynick

M-HC Rivers & Trails Update

Great news! DRBA has received a generous grant of \$603,500 from The Harvest Foundation, ensuring that staff positions and projects in Martinsville-Henry County



The Bike Barn at the Doyle St. Trailhead
– photo Ellen Jessee

will be sustained for the next three years.

With the arrival of warm weather, the popular Dick & Willie Passage is seeing heavy usage. At the Doyle Street Trailhead, the Dick & Willie now is home to the "Bikasaurus," a bicycle rack shaped like a dinosaur, donated by the Virginia Museum of Natural History. DRBA has placed five historical signs along the rail trail and installed trail rules signs in the trailhead kiosks. The Henry County Bike Club "Yellow Jackets" have adopted the section between Liberty Street and Doyle Street, with other groups expected to adopt sections of the trail soon.

Activate Martinsville-Henry County has a fleet of 30 bikes in their "Bike Barn" at the Doyle Street Trailhead for its free "Borrow a Bike" program for individuals age five and up. A parent or legal guardian must accompany those under 18. Helmets

are required and a photo ID must be presented to check out a bike. Summer hours are Monday - Friday 4pm to 8pm, Saturday 9am to 6pm, and Sunday 1pm to 6pm. Information: 276-403-5087 or 276-403-5086.

Funding has been obtained to extend the Dick & Willie, the Martinsville Uptown Spur Trail, and the Fieldale Trail. DRBA/Rivers & Trails staff, volunteers, and partners continue to work out the details.

DRBA participated in the Fieldale Heritage Festival on May 21 and the Jamison Mill Park Appreciation Day on June 11, where ten sponsoring groups hosted hiking, paddling, mountain biking, and road bicycling events throughout the day.

Be sure to save August 13 for the 4th annual Smith River Fest at the Smith River Sports Complex. Activities include the Smith Down River Boat Race at 10am, the Kid's Fun Float at 1pm, and special-interest villages, food, and live music throughout the complex. A Saturday afternoon release will allow boaters to enjoy the river just below Philpott Dam. After the festival, stay for semi-pro football at the Sports Complex. Check it all out at www.visitmartinsville.com/4th-Annual-Smith-River-Fest.html.

–Ellen Jessee

Trout In The Classroom

Can you believe it; *Trout in the Classroom* is now in its 6th season in the Dan River Basin! The very first time I experienced TIC I knew I had found a unique and

exciting program that would have an immediate and lasting impact on students and teachers. This award-winning program, conceived by Trout Unlimited, was introduced to Virginia classrooms in 2005 by Dr. David Jones, a prominent conservationist and DRBA board member. Now one of the largest TIC programs in the country, as well as one of Virginia's top watershed education programs, it is funded by both Dr. Jones and DRBA, whose support makes the program sustainable and allows for future growth.

The TIC season starts in October when teachers begin setting up their tanks. In early December, small wet bundles of tiny pink eggs from the Wytheville State Hatchery arrive. Over the next six months, students and teachers care for these "small fry" as they hatch and grow into fingerlings ready for release into our local streams. This past season saw 31 tanks in four county school systems, each raising 80 – 100 brown trout, for a total of over 2000 trout released into the Smith and Dan rivers.

Lisa Hall served as a DRBA intern, providing valuable service to TIC this year. On June 13 DRBA welcomed new staff member, Education Outreach Coordinator Krista Hodges, who will lead the TIC program in the coming season.

Trout need cold, clean water to survive, and one of the major lessons the students learn is how a healthy stream has clean water and lots of food for trout. We also see amazing results in attendance and learning and development in classrooms exposed to this program.

– Brian Williams

DRBA Welcomes Krista Hodges

DRBA welcomes new M-HC Education Outreach Coordinator Krista Hodges, who will direct *Trout in the Classroom* and develop new education and outreach programs to be used basin-wide. Holding a BS degree in biology with a minor in English from Averett University, Krista has held volunteer leadership positions and has worked as an intern park ranger at Philpott Lake and an aquaculture specialist for VA Tech and Blue Ridge Aquaculture.

Krista says, "I was introduced to DRBA a year ago through Dr. David Jones, and as I started looking into the program, I quickly learned how remarkable it really is. From stream monitoring to interpretation of natural and cultural resources and TIC, I knew that it was a program I wanted to be a part of! I am excited to be working with the kids. I look forward

to the new season of TIC and working with such a wonderful group of people!"

"I am extremely excited to have Krista on board here in Henry County," says Program Manager Brian Williams.

"Her skill, drive and enthusiasm are exactly the kind of qualities we look for when adding a new member to the DRBA family. I know she is going to be an incredible asset and will take TIC and our outreach and education programs to the next level. Please join me in welcoming Krista.

Krista can be reached at: khodges@danriver.org
276-634-2592



Krista Hodges

–T Butler

ADVENTURES

April 2nd Outing: A Surprise Lake Paddle

DRBA's April First Saturday Outing was scheduled as a 5-mile paddle from Bassett to the new Great Road Access. Quite a few people wanted to participate in our Smith River trip, including some who had never



The "Crazy Eight" on Philpott Lake. – photo Charlie Williams III

been on the river before. But, on April 2 the weather and water were not working with us.

Faced with low water and several first-time river paddlers, we decided to change to Philpott Lake. Although the winds were very strong, eight brave souls took the challenge of paddling on the lake.

We all had a good time. The wind made for a more interesting trip than we had planned. At times it would push us along the lake; then it changed direction and threatened to overturn our boats. The gusts were so strong that sometimes forward momentum was lost and paddling only maintained our place on the water.

With such conditions the group hugged the shore and tried to use the wind to advantage. We explored two coves, taking a short break in the last. The sun was out then, and the warmth felt good as we were sheltered from the full force of the winds.

Although I was hoping for better conditions, I must say that it turned out to be a good experience for all that participated. Challenging conditions

forced our little group to work together. I think some discovered skills they didn't know they had, and others so welcomed the opportunity to get back on the water that nothing could have stopped them.

I am proud that some of the participants who came to the Bassett launch site decided to go home without paddling. The conditions were not ideal, and it is always wise to recognize one's limits. For those persons I have much respect. The spring is young, and we will have better days. I hope I see you all again later this summer.

Thanks to everyone who came to participate and to all who worked with me on this day. Although it did not turn out like most of our First Saturday Outings, I will still call this one a success.

–Charlie Williams III

May 7th Float

What a beautiful day it was for a float! We met at the Snow Creek Access for a five-mile First Saturday Outing on the Dan to the Hemlock Golf Course Access.

Twenty-eight paddlers in 28 boats enjoyed the scenic and educational float.

The river twisted through a beautiful isolated wilderness. The current was swift enough to make it an easy float as we proceeded down the river maneuvering through the rocks and undemanding rapids. As we paddled downstream, we enjoyed delightful scenic views along the river.

Halfway through the trip we stopped at a sandy beach across from the largest bluff on the trip, known as Mount Horrible, where the rocky bank rose over 150 ft from the river level. Despite the name, it was a stunning view enjoyed by everyone while they ate their picnic lunch. Lunch was a great opportunity to visit with the friendly members of DRBA and get to know each other more. Afterward we continued our float between the beautiful bluffs. Our journey ended with a thrilling Class II rapid right before our departure point.

The outing was enjoyable for everyone, and it was time well spent on the river with wonderful friends.

–BeBe Hill

June 4th Dan River Float: Draper Landing to Berry Hill

Thanks to Will Truslow for leading approximately 37 paddlers down the Dan on a beautiful bright June day. The cool water made the warm day enjoyable. Also



The black snake. – photo Joel Deaton

thanks to Three Rivers Outfitters for shuttling boaters.

We left from Draper Landing Access and exited 7 miles downriver at a previously arranged private take-out. The river was up with a good flow (670 cfs and 1.8 ft. on the Wentworth gauge) and a little muddy, which prevented seeing most of the sluices and fish traps.

A unique sight was the blue heron rookery with seven rough stick nests in a huge sycamore tree.



Heron rookery. – photo Joel Deaton

While most of the chicks were gone, several nests had visible adults. Blue herons nest in group rookeries for protection, having at least one adult on

watch at all times.

A second animal encounter was the lunchtime visit by a 5 ft. black snake who did not seem upset in posing with Wayne Kirkpatrick, DRBA president.

It was interesting to listen to Will and other knowledgeable members relate the history of the area. We could easily imagine the river commerce and vibrant farming activities during the 1800s. Thanks to DRBA for a great outing.

–Joel Deaton

Dan River Sojourn 2011: Trip Report

The inaugural Dan River Sojourn hosted 15 paddlers who tarried for a brief while, enjoying 22 miles of the Dan River from Lindsay Bridge to the Eden Wildlife Access, with perfect weather, excellent water level, great programs, entertainment and food.

Charlie Williams led the paddlers downstream, with Lucas Conkle and Matt Kirkpatrick sharing sweep duties. Lindley Butler provided historical commentary, and tourism offices for Madison, Eden and Rockingham County gave us information about scenic and cultural attractions nearby. 3-R-O Outfitters assisted with shuttle and boat rentals.

At the first evening's campground on the property of Bill Williamson we enjoyed supper, introduction to the river basin, a campfire complete with s'mores, and great music from Les Moore. Landing at Settles Bridge mid-afternoon, we shared a meal and music by Chords 'n Strings. Dr. John Ray Webster, who had graciously invited us to camp on his property, joined the dulcimers and guitar with his bass fiddle. Their sound echoed off the bridge and the river—magical! At lunch on Sunday, Milton and Linda Hundley shared a rock collection representing the geological history of the Dan River basin. We hated to end the trip that afternoon.

This inaugural Dan River Sojourn was a Team DRBA effort. Many hands contributed to the happy, satisfied paddlers who made the journey through history. Thank you to everyone who helped DRBA succeed at establishing what is anticipated to become an annual event.

–Wayne Kirkpatrick



Paddling the Dan River. – photo Lucas Conkle



Great music at camp during the Dan River Sojourn. – photo Lucas Conkle

MEMBERSHIPS

March 2011 | June 2011

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David Bernard
Eric and Sarah Capps
Greg and Phyllis Gendron
Nathaniel Hall
Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick
Scott and Liz Luking
Sammy Redd
Hollis and Karl Stauber

Organization

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Smith River Valley Canoe Club

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Chad Hall
Jerry and Edwina Hardee
Mike and Mary Linville
Max and Elizabeth Moneyhun
Katherine Mull
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Andrew, Julie and Alexandra Talbert
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LOCATION KEY

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CASWELL TRAILS P.6

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LANDFILL P.6

PHILPOTT PADDLE P.9

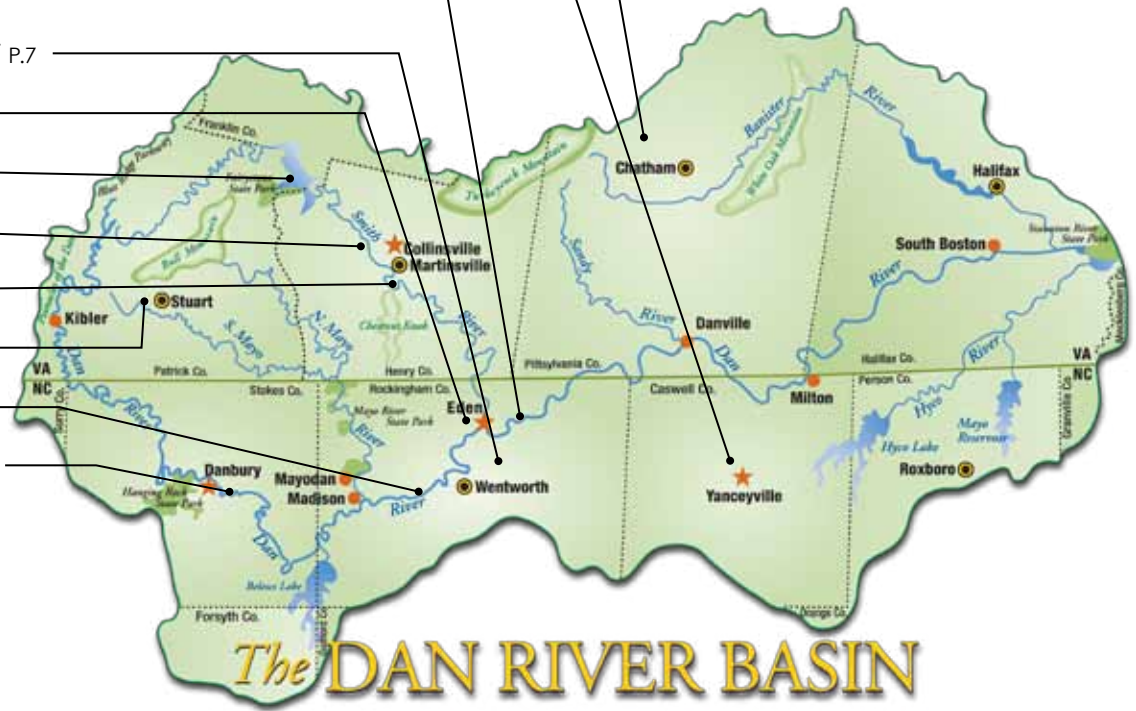
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SNOW CREEK FLOAT P.9



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