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Dan River Basin Association Board of Directors

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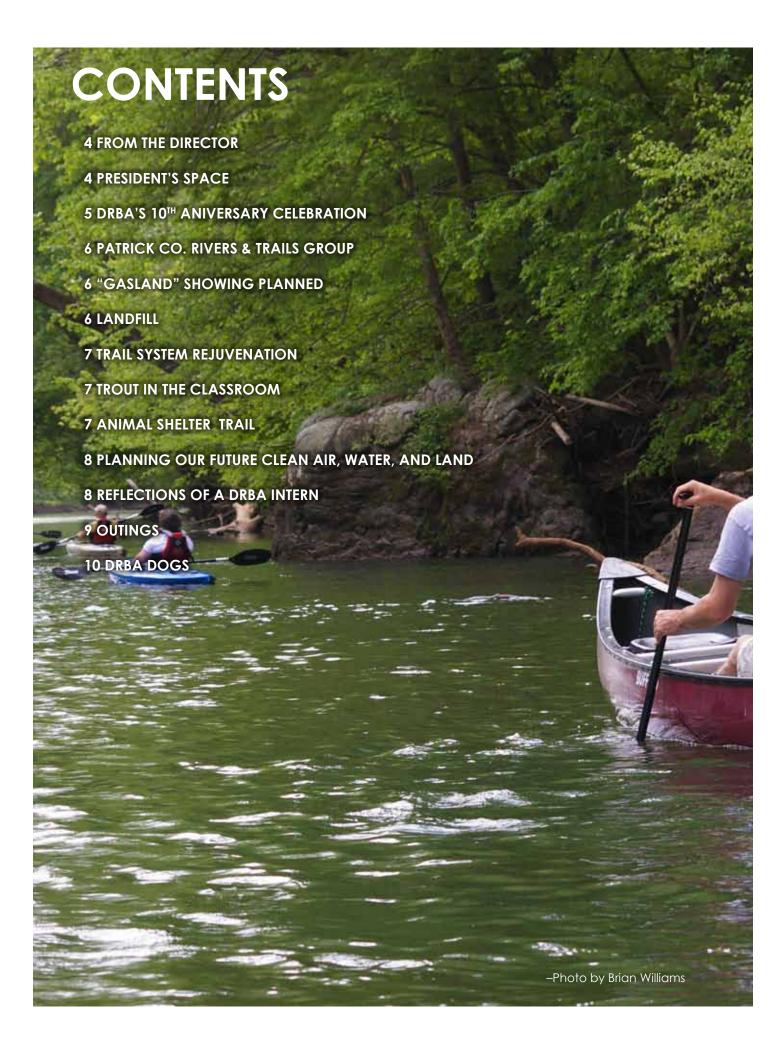
Meetings of the DRBA Board of Directors are held on the second Wednesday of February, May, August and November. The next meeting will be on May 9.



Staff

Editor: T Butler

Design and layout: David Pinney



FROM THE **DIRECTOR**

A few weeks ago my sister told me she had noticed a lot of changes in me. About a week ago, a close friend remarked that I seemed somehow different. Just a few days ago, a past co-worker who hadn't seen me recently said she didn't even recognize me. I had no idea what they were all talking about until I really thought about it.

I sleep through the entire night now and wake up feeling refreshed and full of energy. My skin and hair are healthier. I haven't taken any medications in months, mostly because I haven't suffered from headaches or an upset stomach. My blood pressure is a lot lower. I eat more and weigh less. I can walk up a flight of stairs and not get winded. I don't feel stressed. I am happy and laugh more often.

All these changes have happened so gradually that I hadn't even noticed. So what has brought about this dramatic change?

DRBA - I spend a lot more time outdoors.

We've all read that fresh air and an active lifestyle can improve your quality of life. Well, DRBA members, I am living proof that it really works. Do your mind, body and spirit a favor. Get outdoors. Join us every chance you can on DRBA outings. You may not even notice how your life changes, but I bet others will!

-Tiffany Haworth



DRBA Director Tiffany Haworth.

-photo by Brian Williams

PRESIDENT'S **SPACE**



DRBA President Wayne Kirkpatrick.

In looking back over the past three years as my tenure as DRBA's fourth President nears completion, I am in awe of and so very proud of the efforts put forth by volunteers, staff and Board. I am grateful for the patience of these people while DRBA has continued to experience positive change in the form of growth, effectiveness, rising to environmental

challenges, carefully choosing our second Executive Director and gaining momentum toward increased sustainability. The diligent oversight of our Board of Directors has guided the organization toward an increasingly stable position, making our programs, activities and initiatives even more successful. DRBA will always be a work in progress, with change being the lone constant. The challenge lies in harnessing that change for the good of the organization.

Here on the farm in Patrick County, the cows have come home. It is time for me to join DRBA's flow of constant change and to transition in responsibility from Officer back to Director. It is with cherished memories of all my experiences over the past three years that I say how privileged I have been to serve as DRBA President. Thank you!

-Wayne Kirkpatrick



FEATURES

Impressions of DRBA's Tenth Anniversary Celebration

Some 70 DRBA members and guests convened at the Pepsi Building in Danville on March 3 to celebrate DRBA's Tenth Anniversary. Dr. Suzanne Marshall, newly elected member of the Board of Directors, and Lucas Conkle, Chair of the Outings Task Force, provided their impressions of the celebration.

Suzanne says, "My first DRBA annual meeting was so impressive. DRBA has only been in existence ten years, but there are nine paid staff who are working all over the basin educating, putting trout into classrooms, building trails and boat access points, keeping the rivers clean, and more."

Looking a few weeks ahead, Lucas considers a highlight to be "news of a new website that looks so exciting it has me checking in every day to see if it has gone live yet."

Volunteers recognized for exceptional service were Carl Espy for Board and committee service and leadership www.danriver.org in Halifax County; Joan Ragland for basin-wide volunteer leadership; and Drew

Lucas for liaison with MillerCoors and service on the Landfill Task Force. Faye Shelton, whose tireless service on the Landfill Task Force is crucial to DRBA's efforts, was awarded the Outstanding Service to DRBA. Founding members T and Lindley Butler received the Spirit of the Dan River Basin for their vision and legacy.

According to Suzanne, "NO organization can survive long without a strong volunteer base. DRBA has a large number of active, dedicated volunteers to lead and take part in the projects....The amount of work each [award recipient] had done was amazing!"

Lucas comments, "I must say that hearing about all the work that was being done and seeing the people do such great things made me want to get out and do more work for DRBA."

"DRBA knows how to celebrate its successes, which is crucial for an organization's long life," observes Suzanne. "The delicious breakfast spread was a lovely way to reward all the members. DRBA has some great bakers and cooks willing to contribute."

Keynote speaker was Dr. Lindley Butler, historian and co-founder of DRBA, who related how DRBA came to be and how the founders' vision has become a reality.

According to Lucas, it was enlightening "to hear of the origins of DRBA starting with a few local people who saw the value of the river and wanted to protect it at a time when things were relatively good in the basin. Particularly powerful was the story he shared about going to a national meeting where it seemed the other local river groups arose to fight against some looming threat to their waterways. Not in our little basin. Here our love for what we had was manifested even

before something threatened

Despite major threats to

the region, both Suzanne and Lucas see a bright future. Suzanne observes, "I think DRBA is so successful because the region's people saw a need for an organization to promote and protect the basin before serious threats arose. After nearly ten years of organizing, teaching, building connections, and gaining experience, when threats arose, a riverside landfill and uranium mining, DRBA possessed the

to take it away."

Lucas adds, "Now that we face such threats as a landfill, fracking, and uranium mining, DRBA is ready to face it. Yes, these challenges are daunting, but when we look back over the last 10 years and we see how far we've come there is no doubt that DRBA will rise to the occasion and do everything we can to ensure that future generations will have the same opportunities to go out and find peace and enjoyment as we do today."

ability to challenge these dangers well."

The Tenth Anniversary T-shirt is available to DRBA members in limited quantity, both short and long sleeved. While quantities last, they will be sold at DRBA outings.

Patrick County Rivers & Trails Group (PCRTG)

Since its inception in February 2011, PCRTG has made positive progress within Patrick County. We successfully partnered with the Board of Supervisors as they adopted a resolution advocating continuation of the moratorium on

PCTRC members participate in a roadside trash pick-up event.

Uranium mining. We began an Adopt-a-Trail campaign, held a river, trail and roadway trash cleanup, and began laying the groundwork toward developing a Recreational Use Plan for the County.

PCRTG is grateful to DRBA staff, Tiffany Haworth and Dale Swanson and intern Anna Wallace, for their leadership. Their support is vital to PCRTG's continued

success, furthering the DRBA mission and vision in this scenic Headwaters County of the basin.

Meetings of PCRTG are free and open to the public. Scheduling and updates are at http://patrickriverstrails. blogspot.com/

-Wayne Kirkpatrick

Gasland Showing Planned

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In partnership with Clean Water for North Carolina (CWNC), DRBA will sponsor a free showing of the film Gasland on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Rockingham Community College Auditorium. The controversial film documents personal experiences with hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking."

Speaker at the event will be Hope Taylor, Executive Director of CWNC. Formerly a biomedical researcher and science teacher at colleges and universities, Taylor has worked for decades for environmental and social justice. She can speak about Gov. Perdue's recent statement in favor of allowing fracking in North Carolina.

Fracking, a method of extracting natural gas from shale rock, involves drilling deep into bedrock and pumping millions of gallons of water, sand, and chemicals into horizontal channels to force gas to come to the surface with the chemical soup. Shale beds underlie Stokes, Rockingham, and Pittsylvania counties in the Dan River basin. In some parts of the United States, byproducts of fracking have included highly contaminated groundwater. A dramatic event in the documentary shows water at a kitchen faucet catching fire.

More information can be found at www.cwfnc.org and www.gaslandthemovie.com.

Landfill Update

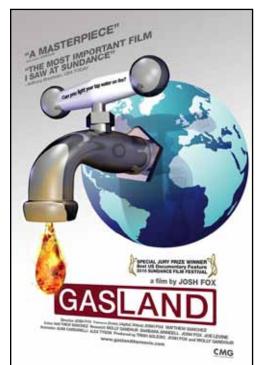
A 1700-acre tract with four miles of frontage on the Dan River just west of Eden is being considered for a regional landfill. DRBA's opposition to the Special Use Permit for this landfill is entering another phase.

In November the Rockingham County Board

of Adjustment failed to support DRBA's objections to the Planning Department's acceptance of the application. Our case has been appealed to Superior Court, and we anticipate a hearing later this spring.

Meanwhile, the company proposing this landfill has made a separate offer to partner with the county to help run the existing landfill located near Wentworth. No agreement has been reached, and none is expected before the court hearing takes place.

Please assist DRBA's legal efforts to stop the proposed landfill from being built on the Dan River. Send your contribution to DRBA, 413 Church Street, Suite 401, Eden, NC 27288, or donate online at http://danriver.org/Members/Gifts_Donations.htm. Thank you!





Trail System Rejuvenation at RCC

Thanks to a grant from the Reidsville Area Foundation, DRBA staff and volunteers are partnering with personnel from Rockingham Community College in Wentworth to reopen and expand the three-mile trail system at the college. Damaged severely by an ice storm several years ago, about two-thirds of the once-popular trail has been closed by tangles of treetops and brush felled by the storm.

The trail winds over hilly terrain, beside streams and waterfalls, and along ridges beside stands of mountain laurel. Look for a DRBA outing on this beautiful trail sometime soon!

Trout in the Classroom

The 7th season of Trout in the Classroom will be over before we know it! At the trout releases not long after Spring Break, students will be saying their sweet goodbyes to their



Krista Hodges explaining the trout life cycle to Mount Olivet Elementary students.



little trout friends. As they bid them farewell, the students will have a good idea where their trout are going, what they will be eating and what they need to survive.

New presentations created this year to enhance this learning include Watershed Awareness, Creating a Trout Habitat, Adapting: Aquarium vs. Stream, Trout Life Cycle and the favorite, Tub O' Bugs! These are presented to TIC and other classes or after school programs by request. Contact Krista Hodges, khodges@danriver.org or 276-634-2592.

-Krista Hodges

Animal Shelter Trail Volunteers Complete Second Work Day

On a warm Saturday morning in February, 16 volunteers from DRBA, Rockingham County Soil and Water District, Rockingham Community College, UMAR, and Friends of Chinqua Penn Trail completed the second work day on the Animal Shelter Trail in Wentworth. When completed, the



Animal Shelter Trail volunteers.

quarter mile trail will link the new Rockingham County Animal Shelter with the county's Governmental Center. Volunteers from the Animal Shelter are already using the trail to walk shelter dogs, providing both the dogs and volunteers with exercise and peaceful time out of the shelter.

The Animal Shelter Trail is nearly an all-volunteer effort. Funding for trail materials and other support is provided by REI, Rockingham County, Prillaman Landscape Dimensions, Reidsville Office City and DRBA members. Anyone interested in helping build the trail may contact Jenny Edwards, DRBA Program Manager, at jedwards@danriver.org.

Planning for Future Clean Air, Water & Land

Thanks to the Kresge Foundation and the Reidsville Area Foundation, DRBA has been awarded a scholarship to attend the Climate Solutions University (CSU), a unique training program of the Model Forest Policy Program. CSU provides a framework to assist rural forested communities with on-the-ground solutions that help their community conserve water resources; protect citizens from flooding, drought, and health hazards; sequester carbon; preserve their economy; maintain natural habitat; and build a sustainable baseline for resource oriented jobs and recreation. DRBA will focus this planning on Rockingham County, NC. This will be the first plan of its kind in the state.

Established in 2000, the Model Forest Policy Program (MFPP) is a national non-profit organization that promotes forest policies and practices that restore and sustain healthy productive forests, clean and abundant water supplies, and economically thriving climate-resilient communities. MFPP works to improve the quality of life of rural communities in the U.S. by helping them design and implement plans to conserve and restore their forested watersheds. Through this process, communities improve local planning, protect critical natural resources, improve local water quality and quantity, and protect terrestrial and marine habitats.

According to the 2011 Rockingham County Competitive Assessment, to be competitive in the years ahead, the county must develop strategies to rebrand Rockingham County as a sustainable community. Economic development should include environmental consideration, such as supporting entrepreneurial ventures that create high tech and green jobs that do not adversely impact the natural environment. Rockingham County's major assets toward achieving this goal, according to the report, are its rivers and abundant natural resources, including intact forested watersheds. The Model Forest Policy Program will help develop a plan to protect these environmental assets by incorporating forest and water issues into planning efforts.

Most rural North Carolina communities lack funds to do such planning. At no cost to the county, through DRBA the MFPP will provide Rockingham County the planning tools to assess its forest and water natural resource conditions, pinpoint vulnerabilities, and devise a specific plan to conserve those resources, protect its citizens from potential losses, and become a "sustainable community."

-Tiffany Haworth

Reflections from a DRBA Intern



Jesse Bullins and son at Hanging Rock. –photo by Jesse Bullins

I was born and raised in Stokes County and grew up with a close relationship to the Dan River. All of my life, I fished, swam, tubed, and was even baptized in that river. I continue to carry my children to swim and play in the Dan, hoping it will inspire them to love

its beauty and to want to protect it.

I was blessed to grow up in an area that had beautiful hardwood forests. I enjoyed playing in these forests and along the many creeks and streams, which gave me a deep respect for them. As I grew older, many of these forests were clear-cut and replanted in pines. It was hard to witness the loss of these old ecosystems. Since then I have looked for ways to protect them and give them a voice. I am still on that journey.

After serving 4 years in the US Army and pulling two combat tours overseas, I came home and enrolled at RCC where I am pursuing an Associate in Science degree. I plan to transfer to a university to complete a Bachelor degree. I intend to work in a profession where I can help the environment and try to bring about better understanding of its necessity to our lives.

I am a member of the RCC Science Club and enjoy doing volunteer work with groups that pursue a better future by helping people have access to natural areas so that they can enjoy the outdoors. I feel that giving people the opportunity to embrace nature will aid in its preservation.

Today, I still enjoy walking through the forest, looking at the different plant and animal species, and improving my understanding of how they are interconnected and the impact that change has on the environment. I hope to one day bring about change in how our forests are utilized by helping people understand the forest is worth more standing than it will ever be sold.

-Jesse Bullins

Jesse Bullins, an Iraq War veteran and student at Rockingham Community College (RCC), is a DRBA intern working on a sustainability plan for forestry and water resources. Here, he is a voice for future generations and the natural beauty of the Dan River.

OUTINGS

January 6, 2012 on the Fieldale Trail

It seemed like everyone and their dogs came to join DRBA on a sunny, warm January morning for a hike along the Smith River in Fieldale. Over 60 folks and a dozen dogs enjoyed the unseasonable weather to explore the trail.

Beech, sycamore, oak, pine, and mountain laurel bordered the path. Many trees, bare for a winter rest, allowed views of the river and the far shore. In one rugged section, big boulders rose above the trail where, if you took the time to look up, seemingly growing out of solid rock was a gnarled, sculptured beech tree.

A kingfisher startled by the crowd zoomed down the river. Tiny kinglets fluttered in the trees above us. Fishermen we met at river's edge claimed they were getting bites, and one had caught a large brown trout that he proudly showed off. Some hikers went the full distance, about six miles, while others chose shorter excursions.

On the walk back, delicious homemade brownies awaited us at the halfway point. What a fine way to spend a winter's day, even though it didn't feel much like a typical frigid January. No one complained about that!

-Suzanne Marshall

February 4 at Fairy Stone State Park

The Fairy Stone hike on February 4 had 41 adults, 5 kids, and 3 dogs. It was 2 miles long but felt like 4 miles because half of the trail was uphill. The trail was very clean and easy to follow. The only sounds were the crunch of leaves being stepped on and people talking.

We saw two abandoned iron mines. They were both blocked off, but you could still see all the rocks inside. Everyone took a break at the top of the hill. From the top of the hill you can see a large farm and a bit of the lake since the trees cover most of it. During the break everyone ate chocolate covered cranberries and sugar and cinnamon covered cookies.

It started to rain, so we ran back down the hill and left. We enjoyed our two-hour hike with the Dan River Basin Association.

-Allison and Katie Huss

Editor's note: Allison is in 4th grade and her sister Katie is in 1st grade at Wentworth Elementary School.

First Saturday Outing Calendar

- **April 7:** Dan River, 9 miles, Berry Hill Bridge to US 58 Bridge
- *May 5*: Smith River, 7 miles, Marrowbone Creek to private access
- June 2: Dan River, 6 miles, Rt 89 to Hanging Rock Access

Riverwalk Hike 3 March 2012

Okay – so hiking is not really my thing. I go along with crowd because they say 'it's good for me' – but I am always the cow's tail' and believe me when I say "I'd rather be paddlin'!" But, there we were at DRBA's Annual Celebration and of course a hike followed after lunch.

Not a bummer! Our group walked the Danville Riverwalk, a very comfortable, level, finished surface designed to follow the beautifully scenic river, its wildlife and its history. Our coordinator, Karen Cross, interestingly pointed out the many developmental aspects of the trail as well as future plans to enrich this area so obviously popular to the many walkers, bikers and joggers we met along the way.

I'm going to give myself credit for three miles and while others went farther, I will have to concede that I was the cow's tail. Not to worry though, I was not alone! In true DRBA fashion, there was always someone beside me – great conversation, great friendship, great fun and of course – "it was good for me!"

-Betty Kirkpatrick

RLC Hike up Bull Mountain, Patrick County, Virginia

On February 25, twenty hikers and two pets braved blustery, cool conditions as DRBA's River Legacy Circle (RLC) members enjoyed a strenuous hike on private property. The 3.5-mile climb up Bull Mountain in Patrick County ascends some 1600 feet to the 3200-foot summit where the



Some of the RLC group on Bull Mountain. –photo by Waye Kirkpatrick

old fire watch tower offers wide views of the North Carolina Piedmont. Along the way, the group visited a memorial commemorating the crash site of a WWII military training flight.

We enjoyed lunch near the summit tucked into the lee side of a protective bank. Ooh's and aah's greeted the long distance views of Pilot Mountain, Hanging Rock and Sauratown Mountain. Amid laughter and stories was an occasional "I'm gonna be sore tomorrow," noting the constant grade of this challenging hike.

This was the second in a series of RLC outings planned this year. The next event is slated for April 1 at Primland, where RLC members and invited guests will spend a relaxing evening visiting the Tree House and stargazing in the observatory. A wildflower walk is planned later this Spring.

-Wayne Kirkpatrick

DRBA Dogs









DRBA's first DRBA Dog event was on March 11th in Martinsville, VA. It was a wonderful time for all! Thank you to Dr. David Jones for allowing DRBA members and their furry family members to hike on his private property. It was the perfect day-the weather was beautiful, sunny skies, and not too hot. Approximately 25 people and 28 or more dogs attended. (My count of the dogs may be slightly off, since I had multiple furry family members to keep track of.)

The 2.5 mile trail had everything a human and/or dog could want–large trees, bridges, beautiful scenery, and creeks for the dogs to frolic in or just to quench their thirst.

We also raised over \$100 for DRBA's Tails on Trails program.

But what was most exciting was meeting the wonderful

DRBA members who came from Eden, NC and Martinsville, Henry County, Floyd, Danville, and Rocky Mount, VA. My dogs made some great new friends as well. I can't wait for the next DRBA Dog event.

We're starting to plan it now...looking for just the right mix of good sniffing and great scenery. We'll keep you posted. Three woofs for a great day!

-Tracy McKoy (DRBA Dog volunteer committee) and furry family Bo, Medi, and Roger.

-photos from top: Nancy Bell (top two photos), Joan Ragland, Shellie Leete

Tails on Trails

DRBA's Tails on Trails program encourages people to get outside and provides human interaction for shelter dogs, enhancing their chances of becoming adopted. Donations to Tails on Trails help build trails that connect animal shelters to populated areas and fund events that encourage volunteers to walk shelter dogs on trails in their community.

Currently DRBA is partnering with shelters in Henry County, Danville and Patrick County, VA and Caswell County, NC. Look for opportunities to get involved in Tails on Trails in the coming months!



MEMBERSHIPS & DONATIONS

Dec. 16, 2011 | March 15, 2011

Memberships:

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James and Ursula Allen
Drs Mark and Carol Boles
Lindley and T Butler
Greg and Phyllis Gendron
Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick
Dan and Beth Mosca
David Pinney
Allison Szuba
Robert Szuba

Protector

Carl Espy, IV Tom and Robin Taylor

Steward

Tom and Gloria Butler Eric and Sarah Capps Carolina Canoe Club Jennifer and James Frith, Jr Blair Harris Joseph and Gloria Montgomery Hollis and Karl Stauber

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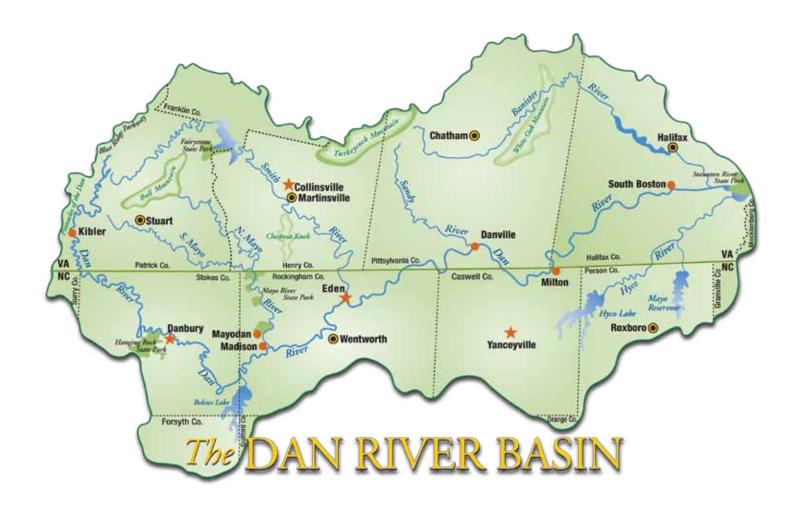
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