The Newsletter of the Dan River Basin Association

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# STREAM TEAM DRBA MEMBERS' CELEBRATION RCC TRAILS OPEN THREE MASTER PLANS

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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 8.

### **SPRING OUTINGS**

(details at DANRIVER.ORG)

April 6: Mayo River, Anglin Mill to NC 770

May 4: Dan River, Draper Landing Access to Berry Hill Bridge

June 1: Dan River, Jessup's Mill to Hart's Access



Staff Editor: T Butler Design and Layout: David Pinney

Cover photo by Brian Williams

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DRBA Members' Celebration. –Photo by Brian Williams

# FROM THE **DIRECTOR**



DRBA Director Tiffany Haworth

"What a year it was!" That was the very appropriate theme for our staff reports at the Annual Celebration this year. For all who attended, thank you! For those who couldn't make it, you missed seeing what DRBA accomplished in 2012, hearing our plans for 2013, and enjoying wonderful home cooked food, fellowship and a lot of laughs and reminiscing. There isn't enough space here to recap all the amazing DRBA accomplishments

of 2012, but be assured that list is very long – and every project, program and partnership furthered our efforts to protect and promote the natural and cultural resources of our beautiful watershed. None of it could have been accomplished without you, our loyal and dedicated members.

In 2013, we are not cutting back or eliminating programs

like a lot of nonprofits. In fact, we have plans to add several programs (Outdoor University, Drs for DRBA, and others) and build more trail miles and more river accesses. We plan to expand our Trout in the Classroom program and will pilot our new Streamside Trees in the Classroom program. An exciting new agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers will give DRBA access to hold education, recreation and stewardship activities at the 8 parks at Philpott Lake.

More than ever we need your help to educate and motivate people in our Basin to actively participate in our efforts. Encourage everyone you know to join DRBA, become a Sustainer, and volunteer. Keep updated on our activities through our website, www.danriver.org, check out the Members Only page, and come out to events and outings. Help us make 2013 the most exciting DRBA year yet!

- Tiffany Haworth

### PRESIDENT'S **SPACE**



The Dan River Basin Association had the pleasure of rolling out new projects, as well as updating our membership on ongoing projects, at our 11th Annual Celebration. This year's event took place at Rockingham Community College in Wentworth, North Carolina.

After the membership meeting and update, a new trail was officially opened. Seeing a year's worth of projects in just 24

Waynick. worth of projects in just 24 minutes is quite impressive. It must be wonderful to make these projects become reality on a daily basis. Wonderful and challenging—challenging because money and resources

are scarce. This is where the membership can help.

Please use every opportunity to spread the DRBA

odate, a new trail was our mission throughout the Ba y opened. Seeing a year's

story. Volunteer when asked, and invite new members into DRBA. The only thing that is holding us back is money. I would love to see what our group can do with the proper funding.

We have a great opportunity to expand our membership with the Philpott Lake partnership. Over 700,000 people visit the park each year. This has a \$20,000,000 economic impact on the Counties surrounding the Lake. I hope that we can grow those numbers and along the way gain memberships for DRBA to help promote our mission throughout the Basin.

-Fletcher Waynick

Are you receiving your email notices from DRBA?

If not, please notify Robin Light, rlight@danriver.org to be sure your email address is up to date!

### ANOUNCEMENTS

### Fall Equinox Auction Planned: Volunteers Needed

Do you know where all the cool, locally-made stuff is? Have a knack for spotting the eclectic—or maybe just want to help out a worthy nonprofit? Then DRBA is looking for you!

This September, DRBA will hold a first-of-its-kind auction of locally-made, outdoor and environmentally friendly items to raise funds for trail building, clean water and other important purposes. Teams are currently forming in Danville, Martinsville, and Rockingham County. We invite you to join the team closest to YOU. Teams will be charged with collecting unique items in the categories above, describing them in the auction brochure, and helping plan and staff the big event.

It will be fun; we promise! All proceeds will help continue DRBA's work throughout the Dan River Basin!

An informational meeting will be held soon. Contact us if you would like to know more: 336-627-6270 or nbell@ danriver.org

-Nancy Bell

### **Sustainer Program Unveiled**

Helping DRBA succeed is even easier now with the new Sustainer program. Sustainers are people like you who love what DRBA does and want to make sure the good work continues with a monthly gift as small as \$10. Ten dollars a month is nothing more than lunch out or a cup of designer coffee with a scone. But for DRBA it's \$120 of support that



can be counted on for the year.

Put your money to good use by becoming a DRBA Sustainer today. It's easy. We do the paperwork one time and your monthly gift is automatically deducted from your credit card until you tell us to stop or change the amount.

Help us build trails, host outings and keep our rivers clean. Become a DRBA sustainer today!

336-627-6270 or nbell@danriver.org

-Nancy Bell

### Don't forget to check your Members Only page at www.danriver.org!

You have your very own page with special announcements about Members Only events, publications, opportunities to buy and sell outdoor recreational equipment and more.

To access your Members Only page:

- 1) Scroll to the bottom of the www.danriver.org homepage.
- 2) Enter your email into the box under Members Only Resources.
- 3) Enter your password. (If you can't remember your password, click on the Password Reminder link and it will be emailed to you.)
- 4) Enjoy your page!

### **STEWARDSHIP**

### **Eden Area Watershed Summary**

The Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC) is in the process of developing a local watershed plan for the Smith River and the Dan River corridor in the greater Eden area to identify pollutant sources, conservation priorities, and potential projects that will restore water quality for both of these rivers. This planning project has produced a

Watershed Assessment that characterizes current and historical watershed conditions including the natural conditions, water quality data, a review of local government codes, ordinances rules and



programs, and findings during two months of field work.

As the project wraps up in June 2013 a final Restoration Plan will be developed that features a Project Atlas with potential restoration and/or conservation projects, policy recommendations for sustainable watershed management, and an implementation plan to most effectively remediate the Smith and Dan Rivers. Perhaps most importantly throughout this process PTRC fosters relationships with stakeholders to ensure that the rivers are restored to clean and healthy conditions and that will continue to be clean and healthy for future generations. DRBA, the City of Eden, Rockingham County, state agencies in both NC and VA and soil and water conservation districts are all invested partners in this planning project. The Eden Area Watershed Plan was made possible through a Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant. To view the Watershed Assessment visit: www.ptrc.org/edenareawater

-Joy Fields

## Uranium Mining Issue Temporarily on Hold

The battle over the moratorium on Uranium mining and milling in the Virginia Legislature has subsided for the moment. Proposed legislation in both the Senate and the House was withdrawn without advancing to a vote at any level. The pro-moratorium coalition of citizens, corporations and local government entities offered a more formidable unified front than did the pro-Uranium interests.

The battle is certain to be reignited in future sessions, but it appears that it will not be addressed during 2013. Senator Watkins has requested that Governor McDonnell charge various state agencies with developing Virginia state mining regulations, but the governor has publicly stated he will not take action on the senator's request.

-Wayne Kirkpatrick

# Rockingham County Jobs, Forests and Rivers

DRBA is pleased to announce the publication of "Rockingham County Jobs, Forests and Rivers" (RCJFR), a plan that suggests "no regrets" natural resource planning. The plan's recommended projects and programs aim to strengthen the biodiversity of forests and rivers and show how those resources are vital to the local economy.

RCJFR presents the results of a community team effort, deep and broad information gathering, critical analysis and thoughtful planning. This achievement was made possible by the guidance and coaching of the Climate Solutions University: Forest and Water Strategies program (CSU) created by the Model Forest Policy Program (MFPP). The goal of CSU is to empower rural, underserved communities to become leaders in climate resilience using a cost-effective distance-learning program. DRBA focused on the perils to natural resources posed by extreme weather events and ecological degradation. DRBA has begun implementing the plan for 2013.

Land uses and extreme weather events challenge the county's economic development, wildlife, and recreation resources. RCJFR identifies the risks and proposes specific solutions. The outcome will be a community that can better withstand impacts of changing weather and other stressors upon their natural resources, economy and social structure in the decades to come.

RCJFR was made possible through funding and other support from the Reidsville Area Foundation, Kresge Foundation, MFPP, and DRBA members. For more information on the plan and implementation, visit the DRBA website or contact Jenny Edwards, Program Manager, jedwards@danriver.org.

### **FEATURES**

# Stream Team Makes a Difference in Danville

Armed with a \$10,000 grant from the Danville Regional Foundation (DRF) and lots of volunteer assistance, DRBA recently led a project to liberate a stream in a poor urban neighborhood. In addition to creating a beautiful place for people to visit, the project created community pride and shaped a lasting bond between groups who usually do not work together.

DRF's Make-it-Happen grants program encourages collaboration and action within a 90-day window to "make something happen" in Danville. DRBA partnered with Allison Platt & Associates, the City of Danville, the Danville Science Center, the Galileo Magnet School and the WW Moore Juvenile Detention Facility to create learning



Danville Stream Team members work hard to rid the area of kudzu.

experiences for students while cleaning up the stream.

"We first held a community BBQ to let neighbors know what we were proposing to do on their street and also to encourage them to help," said Nancy Bell, project director. Bell said more than 75 people attended the event, many registering for the November workday.

"The unique thing about the project," Bell said, "is that students from a "magnet" high school worked beside students from the juvenile detention center, who worked beside landscaping and mapping professionals, who worked beside city employees and many volunteers." The neighbors embraced the project because of all the positive energy and enthusiasm, she said.

Students conducted biological surveys, performed water quality testing, developed and shared presentations of their work, captured video for a documentary, designed a project logo for t-shirts, researched native plants, and attended classes on landscape architecture and environmental methods. All attended at least one day of hard labor outdoors.

"Our kids usually don't get invited to participate in these types of activities," noted Jane Clardy, a teacher at the WW Moore school. "They got a lot out of it and are very proud of what was accomplished – and they learned a lot."

Sherri Wright, a nurse for the Danville school system and active DRBA member, worked with teachers of the nearby Galileo school to engage students interested in conservation and biological sciences. "It's just been terrific," she said.

An engaging video of the students' work can be found at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXYZqCbNHlQ.

(*Editor's Note:* Jane Clardy's inspiring presentation at DRBA's Annual Celebration captured the enthusiasm generated by this project.)

### **RCC Trails Officially Open**

Back in 1974, Rockingham Community College could boast three miles of trails on its campus. After a severe ice storm made much of the route impassable, for years the trails lay unused.

In 2012 RCC's president, Dr. Michael Helmick, explored the former route with college faculty and DRBA members who remembered the paths. The college partnered with DRBA to secure a grant from the Reidsville Area Foundation, and with DRBA's expertise and technical support to complement that of the college, the trails have been reopened and extended.

On March 2 Dr. Helmick, Tiffany Haworth, Fletcher Waynick, and Reidsville Area Foundation's Donna Rothrock stretched a bright green ribbon across the trail



Photo by Latala Payne, Reidsville Review.

kiosk and officially opened the new trails. DRBA members then enjoyed a hike led by Mark Bishopric, who had spent many volunteer hours laying out the trails and advising the professional crew.

"This is especially satisfying for me," commented DRBA board member T Butler. "Lindley and I used to walk our collies on the trails on Sunday afternoons. We loved the waterfalls, laurel banks, cliffside paths, wildflowers and birds, and the serene woodlands. Now others can enjoy these same pleasures."

DRBA envisions the RCC trails as the hub for a growing network of trails in Wentworth, the county seat.

### **Three Master Plans Take Shape**

DRBA is nearing completion on recreational trail master plans for three more counties in the basin.

In Caswell County, Chad Hall reports, "On March 5, the Yanceyville Town Council unanimously approved the Heritage Trails Master Plan for Caswell County. They were very appreciative of the document and were also boastful of its appearance and content!" Thanks to a multi-year grant from the Danville Regional Foundation, Hall has been developing the plan with public input throughout the process. Two more presentations will be made before the plan is adopted. It is now posted on the DRBA website.

In Patrick County, Wayne Kirkpatrick says, "The Patrick County Recreational Use Plan is in draft form and going through a series of public and civic club meetings throughout Patrick County. With leadership from Anna Wallace, the Plan is being publicized, and support is being garnered, with a goal of having the Board of Supervisors adopt the Plan for the County. Input and general discussion has been lively and insightful, helping to fortify the plan as acceptable to the citizens of the County." **Finally, the Rockingham County** Pathways Plan is being completed by the Piedmont Triad Regional Council in partnership with DRBA, thanks to a grant from the Reidsville Area Foundation. Numerous public meetings throughout the county have contributed to the planning process over eighteen months. A pilot project, the Rockingham County Animal Shelter Trail, was officially opened on March 15. These plans will enable the counties and DRBA to apply for grants to design and build more trails.



Rockingham County officials and volunteers join DRBA and former shelter resident Hank in opening the Animal Shelter Trail. Photo by Robin Light.

### Partnerships at Philpott Lake—A National Model

DRBA members Wayne Kirkpatrick and Rocky Rockwell presented a session about DRBA's partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at the National APPL Conference in Portland Oregon on March 12. The Association of Partners for Public Lands (APPL) is a notfor-profit organization dedicated to public understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of America's natural and cultural heritage.

APPL promotes its member organizations' service and support to the agencies who oversee this nation's public lands. DRBA's partnership with the USACE at Philpott Lake was honored with the 2011 USACE Excellence in Partnership Award from the South Atlantic Division of USACE, which led to the invitation from APPL.

Wayne Kirkpatrick reports, "The DRBA/USACE session had an engaged group of near 20 with whom Rocky and I enjoyed a lively exchange of questions and comments about our ongoing partnership. The feedback during and after the presentation shows that DRBA is firmly on the national level with innovative partnership arrangements.

"Groups that support other public lands facilities are looking to our partnership successes as a model for their areas," Kirkpatrick continues. "It is an honor to have represented DRBA on a national level in a setting that will only increase the positive work being accomplished here in the basin."

Adds Rocky Rockwell, Operations Project Manager at Philpott Lake, "The burdens of managing Philpott Lake under future budget concerns are lightened knowing that we have partners like DRBA, led by people of Wayne's and Tiffany's caliber."

DRBA has recently extended the scope of this cooperative arrangement by partnering with the Friends of Philpott/Friends of Jamison Mill Park to increase trails and recreational opportunities at all of the parks at Philpott Lake. A celebration of this newest partnership is scheduled for March 23 at the Philpott Visitor Center.

Want to participate? Philpott Trail Building Work Days began on February 16. Additional work days are scheduled for Third Saturdays—March 16, April 20, May 18, and June 15—at Salthouse Branch Park, Henry, VA, 9:00 am-1:00 pm.

-Wayne Kirkpatrick

### New Intern Ashley Parham



Rockingham County Intern Ashley Parham. Photo by Jenny Edwards.

DRBA welcomes Ashley Parham as the newest Rockingham County Intern. After graduating early from Dalton L. McMichael High School, she enrolled in Rockingham Community College where she is majoring in Business Administration. In addition to a full-time Pirare Outfittere

course load, she works at Three Rivers Outfitters.

Ashley "grew up" with DRBA and has volunteered over the years in clean ups and festival booths, and she achieved certification as a volunteer water monitor through the mentoring of Wayne Kirkpatrick. She has received a Volunteer Recognition Award for her many contributions to DRBA.

Ashley's goal is to become a veterinarian with her own practice. Her work to establish a DRBA Dogs walking program with the Rockingham County Animal Shelter is a perfect union of her two interests: helping people enjoy the outdoors and helping shelter dogs become better socialized through exercise and human interaction.



### OUTINGS

### Ever More Effective, High-Tech and Yummy: A Report of the Eleventh Annual Celebration

Sidelined by laziness and an increasing variety and severity of illnesses, I somehow missed last year's Celebration. But, tired of being "out of the loop" of DRBA's fun and its preservation and educational activities, I was determined to attend this year. Chauffered by my neighbor, colleague, friend and fellow DRBA member Kate Wandscher, I managed to arrive at Rockingham Community College early enough to schmooze with old volunteers and new staff members before the sessions began.

As soon as we walked in, I was greeted - and sometimes surrounded - by a series of old hugging and hand-shaking pals: so many, warm and garrulous well-wishers that I had no time to take off my coat and sample the acres of goodies



Nancy Bell presents a "Service Award to DRBA" to Jane Clardy. Photo by Brian Williams.

prepared by the hospitality committee - a more deliciouslooking and elaborate spread than I've ever seen at a DRBA gathering. Yum!

My new problem of slight hearing loss prompted me to take a seat near the front, close to fellow Caswell citizen Nate Hall who, I discovered, is now Treasurer. I listened eagerly as witty, proud and enthusiastic officers and staff members gave their reports of a banner year of accomplishment. Among the many items that got my particular attention were the enthusiasm of our host, the President of the college; the high-tech way in which tech-savvy outdoor guy and talented photographic essayist Brian Williams's video summarized and illustrated a big batch of staff reports; the eagerness of Jane Clardy of the Moore School, reporting on the Colquohon Street Stream Restoration Project in Danville, especially its catchy slogan: "1 Stream, 1 Dream, 1 Team"; and of course, Chad Hall's report of a project dear to my heart: Caswell County's trailbuilding effort. What an event!

#### –Forest Altman

(*Editor's Note:* Forrest Altman is a founding board member of DRBA. The Caswell County Recreation Commission/Rivers & Trails held a hike on February 2 to celebrate Forrest's 89th birthday and trails in Caswell.)

### A "Back-Woods" Hike at Reynolds Homestead

Twenty-six people and three dogs braved 22° temperatures on February 2 to learn about forestry projects and the historic property at Reynolds Homestead in Patrick County.

The first stop was at the historic rock spring, where participants could taste the water. Julie Walters Steele, Director of the Reynolds Homestead, explained that the spring was one of the greatest selling points for the original 50 acres purchased by Abram Reynolds in 1814. "The spring fed the historic home until it was renovated in 1969," said Walters-Steele.

Along the route, Forestry Superintendent Kyle Peer and graduate student Kristopher Brown shared information about research projects, including experiments on loblolly pines and stream crossings.

Peer explained how the growth of loblolly pines is being researched in different plots on the property. "We've planted trees in varying densities to test how this affects growth rate," he explained. Loblolly pines, native to more southern climates, typically grow faster than native Virginia pines. "With global warming, the loblolly pine is growing with greater success in areas like this, where it may not have thrived before."

Brown has been conducting research on practical ways landowners can create a ford to reduce the environmental impact on streams that vehicles drive across. Hikers were led across three fords where different materials were used on the approach. "We are testing the water both upstream and downstream of the fords to assess the environmental impact at the different sites," said Brown.

Following the hike, Peter Zeien, Reynolds Homestead volunteer historic interpreter, offered tours of the historic home and outbuildings. Zeien explained the significance of this ancestral home of the founder of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company and the founder of Reynolds Metals.

-Julie Walters Steele

### Hike on Tanyard Creek

The January 5 outing was a great way to start the New Year. My family of 4 joined 45 other adventuresome souls and one shaggy dog in exploring the woods and waters around Tanyard Creek. Our guides gave a great history lesson on tanning and let us postulate where the tannery may have sat beside the creek.

We saw a beautiful healthy stream with puddingstone (conglomerate rock from Triassic Basin Geology) bordering the flowing water. Kids from 3 years old to teenagers had fun throwing rocks into the water and hopping from rock to rock as we hiked down the creek.

We stopped for lunch near the wide reaches of the Dan River and walked through a field where round, pink turnips were growing. On the hike back we had a treasure hunt for petrified wood that was scattered through the woods.

I have hiked tributaries of the Dan River for miles while conducting field work for the Eden Area Watershed Plan (www.edenareawater.org) and have written pages on the geology around the watershed. It was particularly exciting for me to see management of the land that protected Tanyard Creek from erosion and other pollution and also preserved some of the unique geology of the area.

While the group was large, we all experienced the beauty and magic of Tanyard Creek.

-Joy Fields

### Young Persons' View



DRBA's FSO for March was also the annual celebration. Before the meeting there was an awesome selection of food to munch on while people talked. During the meeting staff members showed a video about the things DRBA had done throughout the

Lucas Conkle and friends at Mineral Springs.

year and recognized volunteers for the work they do for DRBA.

After a brief break for lunch 25 people and one canine hiked on RCC's newly opened trail system. We hiked on the yellow trail walking about 2 hours and covering about 1.5 miles. During the hike we saw creeks and small waterfalls. We also saw two springs that had been part of a health resort back in the 1800s. Each of us had a favorite part of the day. For the Kirkman brothers it was the food and hiking to the springs that they will most remember. Brandon Kirby enjoyed the waterfalls and the fun hike. Addison found the old picnic area and dam the most interesting.

-Addison Handy, Brandon Kirby, Brandon Kirkman, Bryan Kirkman (Editor's Note: These young men are students of Lucas Conkle at Holmes Middle School in Eden.)



### Saturday, May 18, 2013 > Save-The-Date <

3-Stage Relay from Jessup Mill to the Dan River Company in beautiful Stokes County

20 Miles of Class I/II River

Tandem Teams of Six, Solo Teams of Three or Individual

plus One Boat (it's your 'baton') plus

Your Fans and Supporters

#### Spectacular Spring Scenery & Plenty of Spring Water

Music : Food : Friends Camping & Lodging

DanRiverRelay.com

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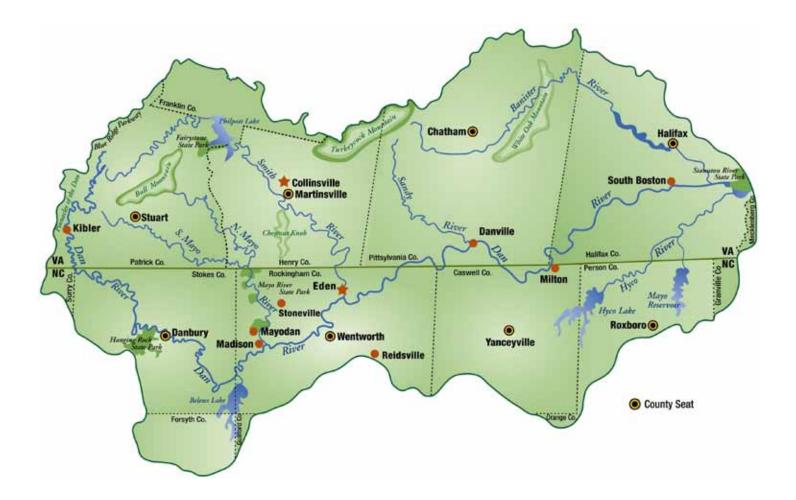
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