

The Newsletter of the Dan River Basin Association

# CURRENTS

DANRIVER.ORG • VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1 • WINTER 2013

**ARTWORK CONTEST WINNER**

**REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

**PATRICK COUNTY UPDATES**

**MUCH MORE...**



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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 February 13.

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## UPCOMING FIRST SATURDAY OUTINGS

*(details at DANRIVER.ORG)*

**January 5:** Hike: Tanyard Branch

**February 2:** Hike: Reynolds Homestead

**March 2:** Annual Celebration: Rockingham Community College

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## CURRENTS

### Staff

**Editor:** T Butler

**Design and Layout:** David Pinney

On the cover: –Photo by Chad Hall

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# FROM THE DIRECTOR



DRBA Director Tiffany Haworth

Winter tends to send people indoors where the fire is roaring and steamy mugs of cocoa are waiting. Staying warm is certainly a necessity when the temperature plummets, but if you decide to hibernate until the spring thaw, you'll miss out on the spectacular beauty of winter.

### *Top 5 Reasons to Go Outside in Winter*

1. No mosquitoes or fire ants!
2. Only time of year you can lie on the ground and make snow angels.
3. With leaves off the trees, it's easier to spot birds and

wildlife.

4. Without the ground cover, you really can see the forest through the trees.
5. Cold temperatures burn more calories as you hike.

A good snowfall also brings a slew of environmental benefits. A "blanket of snow" is more than a visual description—it's also accurate in terms of warmth. Freshly fallen, un-compacted snow makes an excellent insulator for gardens and landscapes, protecting plants and animals against frigid temperatures and damaging winds.

And finally, snow replenishes our water supply. A slow snow melt means water trickles gradually into the earth, percolating through the soil and refilling our aquifers, providing water for our drinking supply.

So, if Mother Nature gives us the gift of a snowfall this winter, remember that those flakes are protecting your plants, your water supply, and the wildlife.

Hope to see you outside on the trails and rivers!

—Tiffany

## PRESIDENT'S SPACE



DRBA President Fletcher Waynick.

Another year is coming to a close and we are starting anew in 2013. Let's make it our best year ever! Our new website, [www.DanRiver.org](http://www.DanRiver.org), gives us a strong new tool for getting the DRBA message to members and the public. Check in often to see how DRBA is making the Dan River Basin a better place to live, work and play.

Volunteer for DRBA's projects and committees. Take a look at the

photographs on the DRBA web site. You'll find smiles on the faces of everyone there. We have fun with our projects, and we leave a better community behind wherever we go. Encourage your friends and co-workers to join us. We are not just working for today but to build an infrastructure that can continue to improve recreation, stewardship, economic development and education in the Basin into the future.

One area I would like to see developed further in 2013 is our social media presence. If you have skills in this area or know someone who does, contact me at [fwaynick@danriver.org](mailto:fwaynick@danriver.org).

We are just getting started on our mission! With your help we will continue to move forward and assure that the Dan River Basin has a brighter future.

—Fletcher Waynick

**Are you receiving your email notices from DRBA?**

If not, please notify Robin Light, [rlight@danriver.org](mailto:rlight@danriver.org)  
to be sure your email address is up to date!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Sustainer: An easy way to make a BIG impact

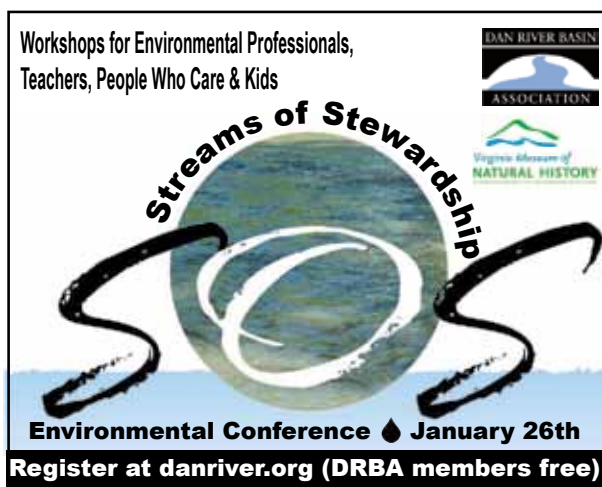
Your donation to DRBA can now be directly debited monthly from your credit or debit card account. Nothing could be simpler! A \$10 monthly minimum donation is all that is required. What are the benefits?

- No need to write checks, send mail or remember due dates.
- Your annual membership may be included in your payments.
- You'll receive discounts at the DRBA store, members-only outings, entry into DRBA drawings, and a special Sustainer's celebration at the annual meeting in March.
- You'll provide a consistent cash flow to support DRBA's ongoing activities.
- You'll save valuable staff time and resources.

To set up your recurring gift, call DRBA headquarters at 336-627-6270. Become a DRBA Sustainer today!

## Registration Opens for Regional Environmental Conference

"Streams of Stewardship," DRBA's 2013 Rivers & Bugs environmental conference, will be held January 26 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at the Virginia Museum of Natural History.



"This year's event features something for everyone," says Tiffany Haworth. "We have activities for kids, for the general public, for the scientific community, and for folks who care about the environment."

DRBA members may attend the conference free of charge. Cost for others to attend is \$25. Lunch and conference t-shirts will be available for a small fee.

The conference registration page at [www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org) will open to the public January 3. Free registration for DRBA members will be on the Members Only page beginning December 22.

## Antilitter Art Wins in Henry County

November 27 was a very special evening for Shania Moore, a fourth grade student at Rich Acres Elementary School. The Henry County Board of Supervisors congratulated her for winning first place out of 200 entries in DRBA's "Let's Clean Up Our Act Henry County" Art Contest.



Shania Moore's winning entry.

Among her prize winnings is having her artwork placed on the new Henry County refuse trucks.

Shaina's drawing, which focuses mostly on protecting wildlife and the Smith River, depicts native animals and shows people picking up trash. She said, "I don't want animals to eat the trash, get caught in the trash or die because of something that humans did." Recognizing the importance of keeping the river clean, she said, "When we go to drink water, we don't have to drink polluted water. I want us to have a healthy environment for all living things."

Excited and nervous about having her art on the county refuse trucks, she said, "The first time I see it I will probably scream out, 'That's my drawing!'"

Funded by a grant to DRBA from Keep Virginia Beautiful, the contest was cosponsored by Henry County and Henry County Public Schools. Criteria for submissions were an anti-litter theme, the effects of litter on the Smith River, and promoting keeping the river clean.

The four runners-up were 3rd graders Ashton Hairston and Reeves Stowe, 4th grader Madison Ross, and 11th grader Caleb Lester.

All 200 submissions are on display in the Henry County Administration Building lobby.

# PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

## DRBA Helps Rockingham County Face the Future

As one of four U. S. communities competitively selected for the two-year Model Forest Policy Program, Rockingham County has been developing a plan for the future. A broad-based local team of stakeholders have worked with Jenny Edwards, DRBA Program Manager, in creating the plan, to be released in January 2013.

“Rockingham County Jobs, Forests, and Rivers” identifies existing risks to the county’s forests, rivers and creeks; demonstrates how extreme weather events increase those risks; and offers a range of goals, strategies and solutions to safeguard the county’s residents, land owners, and economic prospects. The ultimate goal is to assure clean water for future generations and healthy forests for timber, wildlife habitat, and recreation. This document summarizes the planning process, identifies the risk findings, and outlines the resiliency goals and objectives, to be implemented as resources allow over coming years.

–Jenny Edwards

## Stream Project Involves Students, Improves Neighborhood

What does it mean to liberate a stream? Students in Danville know exactly what it means now that they have spent the last three months doing just that!



Stream project volunteers. –Photo Nancy Bell.

Armed with a \$10,000 “Make-it-Happen” grant from the Danville Regional Foundation, Team DRBA helped students at Galileo Magnet School interpret the stream’s health through biological surveys and water quality testing. WW Moore Juvenile Detention Center students designed a project logo and learned to distinguish native

plants from invasive ones. Both groups cleaned litter and debris from the stream, transforming a clogged trickle to a healthy meandering flow. Using DRBA’s video cameras, students filmed the entire 90-days’ work, which became a documentary about the project.

Other project partners include Allison Platt & Associates, the City of Danville, and Danville Science Center. Special recognition is due residents of the Colquhoun Street neighborhood, where the project took place. They worked tirelessly alongside the students and DRBA staff and have agreed to help maintain the area as a place people want to visit.

–Nancy Bell

## TIC Raises All Three Trout Species

Brown Trout. Rainbow Trout. Brook Trout. They’re all here! DRBA’s TIC program, now in its seventh year, is raising all three species. Only brown trout at first, rainbow trout added last season, and now brook trout as well.

Former DRBA staff member Hillary Robinson’s sixth-grade science class at Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School was the first to receive brook trout eggs. Ms. Robinson said, “I absolutely love DRBA’s mission and what the organization has to offer for our community, and I am equally as excited as my students are to be able to participate in TIC this year with brook trout.”



Krista Hodges Shows Trout Eggs to Patrick Henry Elementary School Students.

According to DRBA’s Brian Williams, “The Smith River has a large population of wild browns (meaning they reproduce in the river), but they are native to Europe. The rainbows stocked in the river are native to the western part of our country, so ‘brookies’ are our one true native species.”

DRBA’s Krista Hodges adds, “The students and teachers really light up as soon as they find out their eggs have arrived. And this year, it’s even more exciting with the arrival of the brookies. We are the only program to raise all three of these trout during the same season.”

Over 2,000 students and teachers participate in DRBA’s program in Virginia and North Carolina. They raise trout from eggs to fingerlings, release them into local streams, and learn about conservation and resource protection in the process.

See the trout release schedule at [www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org) in

March. You're invited to attend releases at the announced locations.

## Another Step for Shelter Animals

On the Animal Shelter Trail in Wentworth, volunteers from UMAR at the Roc have built and installed a wooden walkway across a streambed. UMAR empowers people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to lead full and meaningful lives.

The quarter-mile wooded trail connects the Rockingham County Animal Shelter with the Governmental Center. Using materials funded by a grant from REI, the trail has been constructed almost 100% by volunteer labor, including County Manager Lance Metzler and other leaders from Rockingham County government. The next volunteer workday will be scheduled in January to install the trailhead signs.

## Streamside Trees in the Classroom

Streamside Trees in the Classroom (STIC) is a new hands-on program designed to educate students on the importance of streamside vegetation. DRBA partnered with the US Army Corps of Engineers, revising their Trees in the Classroom program to focus on watershed education.

Known as a riparian buffer, streamside trees keep our rivers and streams healthy by reducing runoff and bank erosion, while they also provide important wildlife habitat. Streamside Trees in the Classroom encourages planting and keeping trees along streams to protect water, our most valuable resource.

Martinsville's Dr. David Jones, who kindly sponsored supplies for the program, has given permission for the use of his property along Beaver Creek for the propagation of Black Willow seedlings. Students in eight Henry County classes began the STIC season by making biodegradable cups out of newspaper or milk cartons to hold the willows. After caring for them through the winter, in early spring the students will plant their willows along a stream that needs a better riparian buffer.

*—Krista Hodges*

## DRBA Club: Recycling = Funding

The 26 members of the DRBA Club at Patrick County High School have big plans!

First they'll tour Mulberry Farm in Stuart, a model for agricultural best management practices that help restore and

maintain water quality. There they'll learn about chemical and biological analysis of water quality. Later they'll paddle the Smith River in Henry County.

To fund these trips, the club is participating in Funding Factory's recycling program, earning money for collecting recyclable e-waste. Their classrooms are competing to collect the most items, and they're asking for help from the community.

Want to help? Collect used inkjet and toner cartridges, old cell phones, mp3 players, digital cameras and laptops. Bring them to a donation site: Patrick County High School front office, Honduras Coffee Shop in Stuart, DRBA's office in Eden, or the administration building in Martinsville.

For more information, contact Anna Wallace at [awallace@danriver.org](mailto:awallace@danriver.org).

*—Anna Wallace*

## STEWARDSHIP

### Stewardship Developments

**Uranium Mining:** Expect a showdown in the Virginia Legislature's 2013 session regarding Virginia's uranium mining moratorium.

On November 27, Martinsville City Council unanimously asked the General Assembly to maintain the moratorium because "engaging in uranium mining would result in highly damaging effects on all other economic development efforts in the region."

Governor McDonnell's Uranium Working Group's report is at <http://www.uwg.vi.virginia.gov/links.shtml>

Another study of the socio-economic impact of the proposed Uranium mining/milling operation is due out on January 15.

**Water Quality Improvement Study:** DRBA is helping develop plans to reduce bacterial contamination in six streams in Henry and Patrick counties. Corrective measures may include livestock exclusion, improved streamside buffers, and reducing waste from human and animal sources. [www.dcr.virginia.gov](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov), go to the Recent News page.

**Bio-retention facility in Stokes County:** The applicant has withdrawn the request for a permit.

**Fracking:** Stay current through Clean Water for North Carolina, [www.cwfnc.org](http://www.cwfnc.org).

To enable DRBA to maintain an active role in stewardship efforts across the basin, please support DRBA's Stewardship Fund at [danriver.org](http://danriver.org).

## In Patrick County

Patrick County boasts over 45 miles of hiking trails, plus paddling opportunities on the Dan and Smith rivers for outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy. These amenities are documented in DRBA's draft of the Patrick County Recreational Use Plan being reviewed in a series of public meetings throughout the county this winter. Coordinated by DRBA's Anna Wallace, discussions are scheduled in each voting district, with a goal of identifying additional opportunities for expanding the hiking and paddling inventory.

On November 17, seven energetic volunteers picked up 17 bags of trash from seven miles of Patrick County roadsides.



The hearty seven are Anna Wallace, Conrad Kreager, Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick, Jim and Laura Wyatt and Bob Wray (not pictured).

DRBA actively supports Patrick County Chamber of Commerce's year-round litter cleanup campaign. Volunteers already notice much less litter along roadsides and streams.

—Wayne Kirkpatrick

child's picnic table, apparel donated by Chad Lange of Nature Freaks, CD's and band merchandise, DRBA apparel and other locally produced goods.

—Anna Wallace

## Averett Student is DRBA's TIC Intern



Ethan Atwood working with Brown Trout eggs at Laurel Park Middle School

Ethan Atwood of Collinsville is spending his Christmas break and spring semester participating in DRBA's Trout in the Classroom Internship. An Averett University student majoring in Environmental Science with a minor in Math, he has also been in the

Marine Corps Reserves for a year. Through this internship, Ethan's experience in fisheries and conservation will enhance his future job possibilities while helping prepare him for graduate work at NC State in Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology.

—Krista Hodges

## FEATURES

### DRBA Video on YouTube!

A lively introduction to DRBA, created by DRBA Resource Manager Nancy Bell and volunteer videographers, is on YouTube! Visit [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and type "dan river basin association" in the search box. The direct link is <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hW6OyaJfgM>.

### Front Porch Fest Raises Funds for DRBA's Patrick County Projects

Front Porch Fest is an annual music and arts festival held on Labor Day Weekend in Stuart, Virginia. Each year, proceeds from the festival's ticket sales are donated to the Patrick County Food Bank.

This year the festival also organized a raffle, with all of the proceeds being donated to DRBA—over \$400! The raffle prizes included a Front Porch Fest t-shirt signed by nearly all of the bands that performed at the festival, gift certificates donated by local restaurants, a hand-crafted

### *The River and the Red Leaf*

A swirling eddy captures a Linden leaf  
Red, heart shaped, and spinning in the late summer sun  
The only witness, the ruins of a gristmill,  
An abandoned bateau boat and the river current

A blue heron slips through the sky above  
Dark clouds roll in bruised and heavy  
A hard rain creates dimples in the river's surface  
Geese take shelter in a row along a tree-covered bank

As the water rises, the eddy loosens  
its hold and frees the red leaf  
Which dances and undulates as it moves along the current  
Traveling quickly now with branches and other debris  
A dragonfly lights upon the leaf as the sky clears

A lone kayaker breaks into open water and,  
Out of a multitude of fall colored  
leaves loosened by the rain,  
Chooses this one, places it in her boat,  
And heads for higher ground.

—Tisha Bundy



# OUTINGS

## October 6 Cleanup on Smith in Eden

What a beautiful day we had for the Smith River cleanup. My granddaughter, Stephanie, age 10, is new to paddling. This would be her second time to solo. We were looking for an opportunity to be on the water and to also participate in a volunteer effort. It was a chance to meet new people and



–Photo Lucas Conkle

learn about their connection to water and community.

This was my first time to join a clean-up operation. We found ourselves in and out of our kayaks a lot that day as we picked up trash from the banks. There were times that we sank down into mud up to our knees. What fun!

Eleven paddlers participated, with nine of us in kayaks, collecting an estimated 800 pounds of trash. We found a large soup pot, a baseball, a football, and loads of golf balls from a course nearby, the usual bottles, food wrappers, cups, and several tires. We couldn't fit all the tires into the Butlers' canoe, so we propped them up on the banks of the river to be picked up on a follow-up trip.

The most exciting find for Stephanie was a pair of aviator sunglasses. She brought the glasses home, along with all the balls, and after a thorough cleaning, they are displayed on a shelf in her room.

My best memory of the day was watching Stephanie stand up in her sit-on-top and transform it into a paddle board! After enjoying T Butler's amazing brownies, and reporting on what was collected, we loaded our gear and headed for home. It was a grand day and we hope to meet up with our fellow paddlers again.

–Diane M. Lindsey

## Third Saturday Hiking Adventure!

October 20 was definitely a memorable day for the 15 of us who hiked, and after quite an adventure, joined other friends at the Kirkpatrick's farm for a wonderful cookout/potluck meal.

We began the hike at Primland, guided by Jason Turman, who works for Primland and made it possible for us to access this beautiful area. Joining us was a recent addition to Nancy Bell's family, a young, energetic Weimaraner.

With Jason in the lead we headed down through the woods to the Dan River. The trail, which included a portion of an early alignment of the Appalachian Trail, called the Indian Ladder, was challenging and exciting. The terrain was steep, portions rocky, and often slippery due to all the fallen leaves. Some of us went down faster than planned and not always upright. These incidents were the source of lots of laughter.

That portion of the Dan River, with the high cliffs, is truly breathtaking. We headed downstream, destination the Pinnacles Hydroplant. This was also challenging, finding the best path over or around rocks and fallen trees and thick vegetation. It ended in the beautiful Kibler Valley. We were hungry, having taken just one short break for a snack during the day.

After the hike it was back to the Kirkpatrick's home to join more friends and enjoy a pot luck dinner prepared by many hands. What a wonderful end to a perfect day—great food, good conversation and a beautiful sunset. Thank you Jason, Wayne and Betty and all the cooks!

–Sharon Olson

## Float on the Hyco River, November 3, 2012

Our float started at the Hyco River public boat landing off US 58. Wayne Kirkpatrick, our coordinator, had scouted the trip for us the previous Sunday. The day was nice and sunny with just a bit of a breeze. There were 9 kayaks, one with two persons, and 1 canoe.

The river was very peaceful, and we only encountered two boats of fishermen. There was one house close to the river, but you could see other houses through the trees. A few trees still had some color, but Hurricane Sandy had stripped most of the colorful leaves off their branches. Along the way, you could view interesting rock formations on one side of the river and beaver houses on the other side.

This was the first DRBA trip for my friend Phyllis and me. It was flat river with a little bit of a current due to the wind. I was the one who decided we should take a canoe instead of a kayak. I was afraid I would get wet, and I am not very good at putting the skirt on the kayak. It wasn't

long before I remembered it is easier to steer and paddle a kayak. I'm not the best at steering a canoe, and this was the first time Phyllis had ever canoed. It was a very relaxing paddle, so I wasn't paying enough attention, and our canoe went under some overhanging trees. The branches knocked Phyllis off her seat.

We paddled about 2 miles before we stopped for lunch, beaching the canoe along the bank of the swampy wetland area. Phyllis almost got even with me, because she didn't know how to hold the canoe steady and I almost fell out of the canoe and into the water.

We all enjoyed the company of the other paddlers and the wide view of the wetlands as we ate our lunch before the return trip. It was here that Lucas Conkle departed from our group to portage his kayak across the wetland area and explore the river further.

It was a nice way to spend a sunny day on the river. Wayne Kirkpatrick did a great job leading the group, even waiting for Lucas to return. Phyllis and I thoroughly enjoyed the trip and are looking forward to future trips. The next time, we'll take a kayak, because the people in the two-person kayak probably had the easiest time paddling.

*—Patricia E. Anderson*

## December 1 on the Tobacco Heritage Trail

Almost five years had elapsed since DRBA previewed the Halifax County section of the Tobacco Heritage Trail. The old rail bed of the Richmond-Danville spur from South Boston to Berry Hill Plantation is now a crushed-stone trail, completed during 2012. The Town of South Boston plans to create a botanical garden at Cotton Mill Park where the

trailhead is located.

A dozen members and friends of DRBA, accompanied by one DRBA pet, enjoyed a warm sunny day on the trail from South Boston to Berry Hill. After a mile, we passed the duck habitat wetlands along the Dan River, then enjoyed lunch at a picnic area at the end of the trail. From this river overlook we returned to South Boston, visiting two historic sites associated with the plantation: the Diamond Hill cemetery, one of the largest resting grounds of enslaved Virginians, and the ruins of a beautiful stone house.

Heather Susee, coordinator of the Tobacco Heritage Trail program, invites all to join a South Boston Friends of the Trail group by contacting her at [hsusee@southsidepdc.org](mailto:hsusee@southsidepdc.org).

*—Paul Johnson*



—Photos by Carl Espy



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# MEMBERSHIPS & DONATIONS

9-16-2012 | 11-30-2012

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