

A person wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a life vest is kayaking on a river. The kayaker is in a bright green kayak and is holding a white paddle. In the background, there is a large stone structure, possibly a bridge or dam, with a wooden walkway on top. The scene is surrounded by lush green trees and foliage.

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Dan River Basin Association

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**Dan River Implementation Team • Volunteers Lead River
Cleanups • FSO Tradition Continues**

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Dan River Basin Association

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DRBA at Work

From Adversity . . . Dan River Implementation Team 3

Be in the Know 4

Wild and Scenic Film Festival & Auction

Caswell County Parks and Rec

Henry County Trail Trekkers

Every Kid in a Park

DRBA on the Go 5

Smith River Cleanup Finds WHAT?

Cleanup for the Dan River Race

First Saturday Outings . . . A DRBA Tradition 6

DRBA Membership 7

Upcoming DRBA Events 8



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Cover: A paddler enjoys the Smith River in Ridgeway

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From adversity to . . . Dan River Implementation Team

After the February, 2014, coal ash spill into the Dan River near Eden, Duke Energy promised to “make things right” for the Dan River region. One of the projects undertaken to reach that goal was the formation of the Dan River Region Community Stakeholder Group, a diverse group of volunteers from throughout the affected area.

The Stakeholder Group was facilitated by the University of Virginia Institute for Environmental Negotiation and supported financially by Duke Energy. Its charge was to determine priority goals that would best benefit the Dan River region. All of their meetings were open to the public. In addition, the Stakeholder Group developed a survey to gain public input about the goals and conducted two public forums.

Goals listed in the Stakeholder Group’s final report included a comprehensive regional marketing plan to promote the region, agricultural extension outreach, and the establishment of community college programs related to river resources or recreation.

To accomplish the goals of the Stakeholder Group, a 12-member Dan River Implementation Team, also supported by Duke Energy, was established. Members of the Implementation Team represented different towns and cities throughout our region and work in government, small business, agriculture, outdoor

recreation, education, etc. DRBA is fortunate that two of our board members are participating on this Team.

The Implementation Team’s projects may be funded by Duke Energy or other sources as appropriate. Decisions related to their activities are collectively made by the Team. Duke Energy is not under any regulatory obligation to support this effort, and it is not related to any fines or legal obligation.

For more information about this group, visit <http://danriverregioncommunityforum.org/> . To read the Stakeholder Team’s final report, visit the UVA website, <https://ien.virginia.edu/services/danriver> .

**DRBA
at
WORK!**

Be in the know . . .

Wild & Scenic Film Festival & Auction

Mark your calendar, and submit your auction items!

On Saturday, December 3, from 7:00 – 10:00 pm, DRBA will host a SYRCL Wild & Scenic Film Festival at Averett University. SYRCL is creator of the largest film festival of its kind in the nation.

In addition to spectacular films, DRBA will offer an Art in Nature Auction, featuring such items as unique artworks, crafts, jewelry, or photographs inspired by nature, made from nature, or upcycled/recycled, or perhaps nature experiences such as a paddling trip or a weekend getaway.



To submit an item for consideration, bring it to a DRBA office, or send a picture of the item and the DONATION FORM to drba.nc@danriver.org.

To donate a nature experience, call 336-627-6270. Donors of accepted items will receive a free ticket(s) to the auction and film festival.

All proceeds will support protection of the Dan River Basin.

Caswell County Parks & Rec Survey

If you live in Caswell County or utilize its recreation programs or amenities, help us shape the future offerings of the Caswell County Parks and Recreation Department.



This online survey is quick and should take only a few minutes to complete.

For more information, contact Amy Farinelli, afarinelli@danriver.org.

Henry County's Trail Trekkers for Seniors

This group, co-sponsored by DRBA and Henry County Parks & Recreation, meets at 9:15a.m. on Thursdays to explore a different trail each week. All the trails are moderate in length and difficulty and Senior-friendly, and there is no minimum age requirement.

To participate, pre-register with Henry County Parks & Recreation Senior Services at 276-634-4644. Please contact Paul Johnson at kpj24112@gmail.com with any questions.



Every Kid in a Park Pass

The Obama Administration has launched the second year of Every Kid in a Park, giving fourth graders and their families free access to federal lands and waters nationwide for a full year.

Fourth graders can visit www.everykidinapark.gov to obtain a free pass that provides access to national parks, forests, wildlife refuges and marine sanctuaries. The pass, valid from September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017, grants free entry for fourth graders and up to three accompanying adults (or an entire non-commercial vehicle for drive-in parks) at more than 2,000 sites across the country.



You can follow the program on Twitter @everykidinapark, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

Cow about That! They kicked some Trail!

Winners in the Third Annual 5K Run with the Cows at the Chinqua-Penn Trail were Jordan Bullins (19:38), Esayas Nida (19:47), and Jonathan Chatman (21:15); Emily Moore (22:27), Gessi Harris (26:01), and Chasady Quinn (28:18). Each received a hand-painted slate from the 1926 Spring House roof, which was recently re-slatted. Winners in the Kids' One-mile Fun Run were Taylor Huskey, Matthew Bray, and Joe Sackfield.



Smith River Cleanup Finds What?

On August 2, over 25 volunteers from DRBA, Gateway Streetscape Foundation, Boxley, and Smith River Outfitters participated in a river stewardship day on the Smith River. Between South Martinsville and the Sports Complex they collected some 650 pounds of trash.

“I was happy to dedicate my time to improving my community, but I was even happier to know that my time was truly valued by a group devoted to the health and protection of our river and community.”

L. Hodges

Lucky winner of a flat-screen TV donated by Tony Perez was Latala Payne Hodges, who was participating in her first Smith River cleanup.

Said Hodges, “I’ve only been a member of DRBA for a few months, but after my first volunteer experience with the DRBA team I’m blown away by how much they truly care about our rivers and streams. What was meant to be a four-hour session turned into a lively and entertaining trip. From our leader I learned how storm drains carry trash into the river and also about the historical structures and wildlife along the Smith.”

Some of the volunteers are pictured here with a US Army Corps of Engineers sign that warns of water releases. Picked up about 10 miles downstream from the base, the sign was returned to the Corps.

Cleanup for the Dan River Race

Waking up to dark clouds, I considered not making the trip to Madison on July 16. I called T, who reported clearer skies in Wentworth, -- just what I wanted to hear. Twelve of us assembled at the Lindsey Bridge access. I arrived early, just as two groups of enthusiastic tubers, all ages, arrived.



It’s a beautiful 3-mile stretch to the Hwy 704 access where you’ll find the impressive stone pier of the Madison Covered Bridge (1888). The water level made it an easy paddle and a couple of rapids added a little excitement. Our three canoes and six kayaks provided enough space to carry the trash we collected. As always, if you experienced any trouble, there was help nearby. In addition to the usual cans, bottles and, of course, tires, we collected a ladder that Mike and Janice rescued for future use.

All off the water and boats carried up the stairs, we had T’s traditional treat, brownies. We’re spoiled. Some, still hungry, headed into Madison for a late

lunch together. I can’t think of a better way to have spent a Saturday.

Sharon Olson

... **DRBA’s on the go**

First Saturday Outings . . .

July 2nd on the Smith River

As a Charlotte native and occasional paddler on the Dan, this was my first outing with DRBA. Twenty-three of us gathered at the Great Road Access on the Smith, where I discovered that DRBA outings attract friendly folks who readily welcomed this “outsider.” Although it was already hot, a breeze was blowing, the sun was bright, and the river was clear and cold!

We had great instruction on what to expect, and I was impressed that our leader and sweep carried walkie-talkies to communicate in case of any problems. Three fun rapids were spaced out in this urban setting of factories, roads and a train track just beyond the trees.

Our lunch stop at the Fieldale Trail featured a picnic table and facilities -- no visiting the woods necessary!

The river after lunch slowed and finally widened into lake-like conditions for our last 1-2 miles to our takeout at Doe Run. Another great day on the water!

I have to offer a final shout-out to Wayne Kirkpatrick and the other DRBA organizers: this trip was well organized and thought out, and although it was my first event with DRBA, it definitely won't be my last!

Meg Morgan

Discovery on the Smith

In 2015, my husband presented me with a kayak for my birthday and 26th wedding anniversary. I had never done much kayaking, except using a rental at Fairystone Park. I grew up on the Smith River, there along Riverside Drive in Bassett, and had experienced much anxiety in relation to the Smith. Many times I would be awakened by EMS to evacuate, the river was rising. The thought of getting in a one-man boat and taking it down the Smith terrified me.

In July, I took my first venture with DRBA. I was feeling much stress,

but DRBA members made me feel so welcomed. They explained what was up ahead and were most willing to help—unloading my kayak, teaching me how to board the boat, make turns, slang words like “threads,” etc; I never felt safer. In fact, I felt an overwhelming calmness while on the water. I had overcome my fear of the Smith! The water trail was beautiful, clean, majestic, and soothing, truly a gift from God.

DRBA folks are true pioneers in paddling the Smith River; one member celebrated her 1000th kayaking mile on this trip. Yes, I went a second time, what a humbling experience for me!

Judy Robertson

From the Director

Can anyone believe that we're almost to the end of 2016? Everyone is so busy that hours turn into days, days into weeks, and weeks into months so fast that New Year's Day turns into Autumn in the blink of an eye. Join me and let's not let this season pass us by without reflection, appreciation, and interaction with the outdoors. Rally a group and go hiking or paddling, or just hang out on your porch and watch and listen to nature. While you're experiencing this season, please help us keep our natural resources protected and healthy. Ask your friends, family and co-workers to join DRBA! Tiffany Haworth

August FSO on Smith

Looking for a change to our usual lake paddle, we joined DRBA's First Saturday Outing on the Smith River. Twenty-five boaters (23 boats) launched at a privately-owned access near Sandy Level, VA, and took out, also on private property, in Eden, NC.

The weather was perfect and the river was exactly as advertised – mostly flat water with a few “riffles” we novices easily negotiated. We floated under several bridges and saw a weir used by Native Americans to catch fish. Several of the group ventured up a stream to

a former mill site, but the millstones they sought were buried with sand.

DRBA folks are some of the friendliest and most welcoming people you'll ever meet. Although a number of them clearly knew one another, first-timers were greeted with the same enthusiasm as seasoned floaters. They were helpful (“foot, fanny, foot”) and knowledgeable (pointing out landmarks and naming some of the plants on the banks) and they promised to pull us out if we turned over (no one did)!

All in all, it was an extremely relaxing, enjoyable time and we're looking forward to the next float!

Paula Davidson

Jacob's Creek to Eagle Falls

September 3 arrived with the first hint of autumn, perfect weather for a First Saturday Outing. Trip coordinator Will Truslow welcomed 20 paddlers at Jacob's Creek near the site of Danbury Plantation, home of Revolutionary-era governor Alexander Martin. He explained that we would pass Mulberry Island Plantation, where the 1824 home of NC Chief Justice Thomas Settle, Jr. still stands.

Floating through the heart of Rockingham County, midway between the Dan River's source in the Blue Ridge and its end at Kerr Reservoir, the group was about half North Carolinians and half Virginians. Mild rapids suitable for beginning paddlers were enough to interest more experienced river veterans, especially where Eagle Falls provided a thrilling ride to the takeout. We faced a very challenging climb up a steep, muddy bank, but aided by Paul Lowry and John Johnson, Will organized an efficient system of pulling boats up with a rope attached to a tree on the bank.

Photographer Derrick Brady of the Greensboro News and Record documented the paddlers leaving Jacob's Creek.

Paul Johnson

. . . A DRBA Tradition

Fall into DRBA!

October 1: Philpott—Ryan's Branch to Calico Rock
October 15: TSO—DeHart Botanical Gardens &

covered dish at Kirkpatrick's home

November 1: WOM Training

November 5: Bamister River—Kings Bridge to Terry's

Bridge

December 3: Hike at Gravelly Nature Preserve

Wild & Scenic Film Festival and Auction



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