



RIVANNA RIVER STEWARD REPORT

River Stewards: Justin Altice & Dan Triman **Date:** 4/29/18

Starting Location and Time: Rio Mills (29N) (4:30 PM)

Ending Location and Time: Darden Towe Park (7:45 PM)

Weather: Sunny **Recent Precipitation:** A few inches of rain in the week proceeding

USGS Gauges: Earlysville 2.4 ft (170 ft² / sec), Palmyra 4 ft (1100 ft² / sec)

Water Color: Clear with a bit of murkiness **Water Odor:** None

Air Temp: 62° F

DO: 6 ppm **PH:** 7 **Turbidity:** 20 JTU **Water Temp:** 16° C

Water Testing Location: River Left below the South Fork Dam near Rio Mills Road

Land Use:

Paddle started up near the 29N corridor with lots of commercial and residential development nearby. As the paddle continued develop remains nearby but is less dense and with large swaths of land near the edge of the River acting as a natural buffer. The last leg of the paddle contains Pen Park on the City side and Darden Towe Park on the County side.

Wildlife Sightings and Plant Life:

Geese (and babies), Green Heron, Crows, Vultures, Small Fish, Cardinals, Small Birds, Woodpecker, Turtles, Deer, and a Hawk.

People Interactions:

The paddle began with everyone meeting at Darden Towe Park to leave their vehicles; a few families were seen at the boat ramp there enjoying the scenes of the River. We did not encounter any other people out on the River. Saw a few people fishing as we arrived back at Darden Towe.

Litter and Pollution:

Paddle was a community cleanup as a precursor to this year's Rivanna Regatta. Removed: 3 bicycles, 1 tv, 1 tire and rim, sports balls, couple pieces of misc metal, and approx 6-7 bags worth of smaller trash.



Overall Summary:

The paddle was RCA's Spring Sojourn Community Paddle which was also done as a cleanup for the route of the Rivanna Regatta to be held on May 12th. We were joined by 13 community members, and a conservation officer from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries as well as an officer from the Albemarle Police Department. A news crew from NBC 29 conducted a story on the Sojourn as we left from Rio Mills. We were supported by the Rivanna River Company who provided transportation and shuttling services. We demonstrated the water testing completed on our weekly steward paddles just below the South Fork Rivanna Dam.

The weather for the Sojourn was a bit on the cooler side but sunny skies were had throughout the day. We started our paddle at 4:30pm so that we could enjoy the slow sunset along the way and a full moon was beginning to rise as we reached our take-out point of Darden Towe Park. The water levels were high enough to provide a good current and a bit of excitement in the few rapids found on this stretch of the River. We stopped along the way on a beach to have some RCA provided snacks and get to know everyone on the paddle.

We picked up quite a bit of trash and debris along the way including a few larger items (tire, piece of TV, old mangled bikes). Everyone had a wonderful time and we got back just in time before the temperatures dropped off too much.

Actions Needed – level of priority (1 highest/5 lowest):

3 – Advocate for a more formal access point at Rio Mills



Figure 1: Geese with babies at Darden Towe.

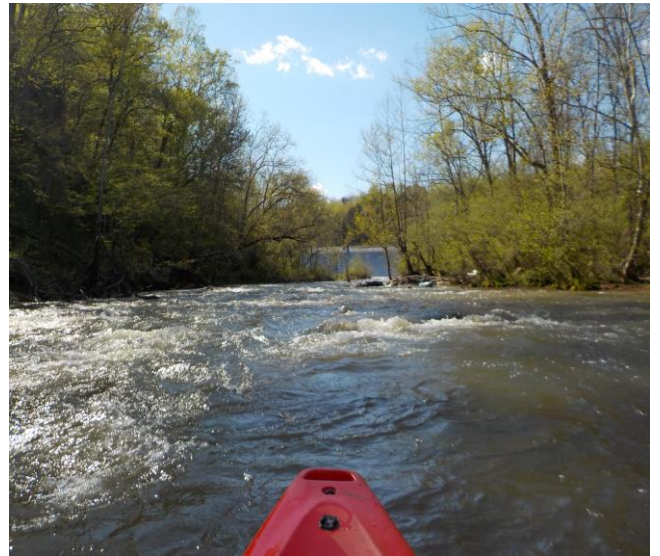


Figure 2: South Fork Rivanna River Dam.

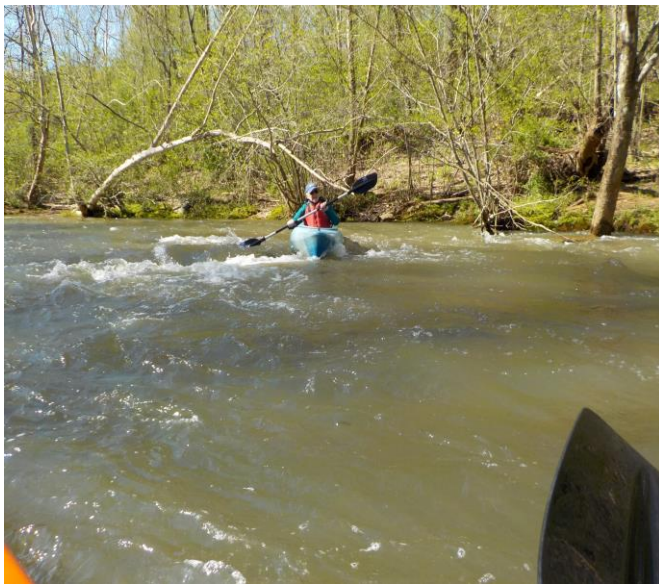


Figure 3: Paddler in our first rapid of the day.

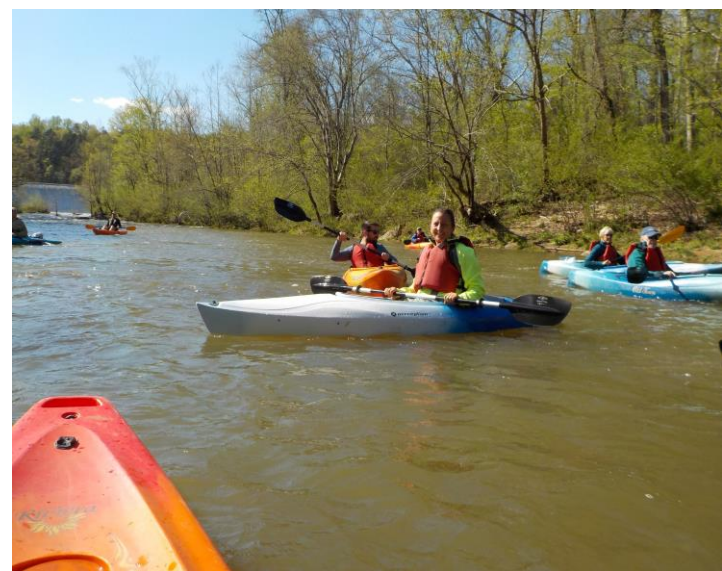


Figure 4: Gathering group just below the dam.



Figure 5: Lilly pad vegetation.



Figure 6: Coming through rapid under railroad bridge.



Figure 7: Albemarle Police Officer with his trash haul.



Figure 8: Group getting to know one another.



Figure 9: Happy Paddlers.

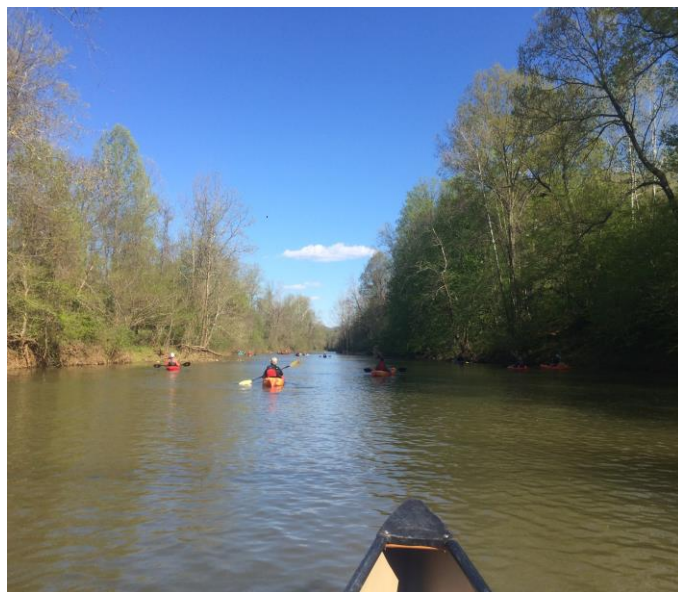


Figure 10: Group paddling down the River.

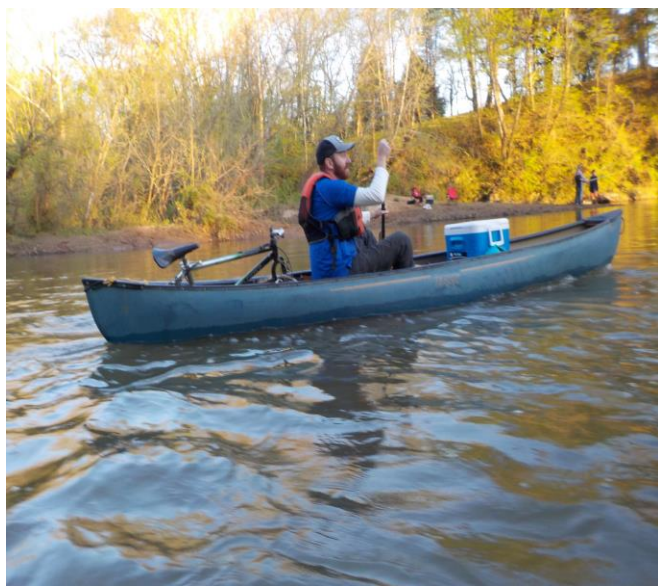


Figure 11: Justin, River Steward, piloting his canoe.

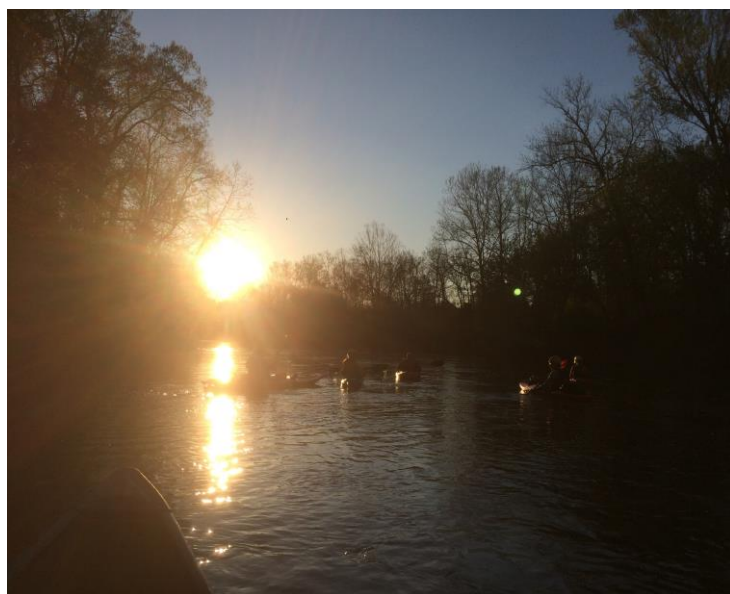


Figure 12: Sunset on the River.



Figure 13: Experiencing the changing light on the River.



Figure 14: Experiencing the changing light on the River.



Figure 15: Trash Removed from River.

**2018 Rivanna Conservation Alliance
Spring Sojourn Community Paddle and Cleanup Group Photo**

