



RIVANNA RIVER STEWARD REPORT

River Stewards: Justin Altice and Dan Triman Date: 06-21-17
Starting Location and Time: Rio Mills Rd Below the Dam (10:30 AM)
Ending Location and Time: Free Bridge (2:00 PM)
Weather: Sunny, few clouds Recent Precipitation: Couple heavy rains
USGS Gauges: Earlysville 2.75 ft (250 cfs), Palmyra 3.75 ft (750 cfs)
Water Color: Mostly Clear Water Odor: None Air Temp: 80° F
DO: 4 ppm PH: 7 Turbidity: 20 JTU Water Temp: 29° C
Water Testing Location: 38°06.1'N 78°27.7'W River Left Under 29 Bridge

Land Use:

Starts at 29 corridor as commercial use, then residential use along Polo Grounds Rd, next is open space, and then Penn Park & Darden Towe Park.

Wildlife Sightings and Plant Life:

Turtles, Hawk, Butterflies, Water Snake, River Otter, Tree Swallows, Crow, Osprey, 4 Great Blue Herons, 2 Long Nose Gar, Smaller Fish jumping out of the water, Caterpillars, Groundhog, Deer, Dragonflies. Lots of Mimosa flowers seen today, a few orange Lilies, some Bamboo and other invasives.

People Interactions:

Gabe Silver from Rivanna River Company (RRC) was kind enough to shuttle us and provide the kayaks for our paddle today. It was the start of our partnership to offer RRC/RCA guided paddles this summer on the Rivanna. We also saw 2 other people kayaking fishing, 2 people fishing at Darden Towe, and about 10 people tubing on the Rivanna today.

Litter and Pollution:

Only a few bottles and cans were found today, and lots of buried tires.

Overall Summary:

Water levels and weather were perfect for the paddle today. Lots of wildlife seen, and generally this stretch of the Rivanna looked in good shape.

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

4 – consider removing some of the buried tires from the River



Figure 1: View of the Dam looking upstream



Figure 2: Great Blue Heron flying overhead



Figure 3: Bridge work just below the Dam



Figure 4: Pipe outfall at River Right just past 29 bridge



Figure 5: Underwater vegetation near 29 bridge



Figure 6: One of the many Mimosa trees seen



Figure 7: Lots of small shells piled up under the water



Figure 8: Turtle sunning on a log



Figure 9: One of the buried tires found



Figure 10: Justin making his way through a rapid



Figure 11: Example of foam build up in the Rivanna



Figure 12: Caterpillar (The Laughter) rescued from the water



Figure 13: Erosion on bank at River Left before Confluence



Figure 14: Turtle swimming in the water



Figure 15: Orange Lilies



Figure 16: Confluence of North & South Fork (looking upstream)



Figure 17: Car at River Left just before Darden boat ramp



Figure 18: Sediment on Darden Towe boat ramp



Figure 19: Tubers near Darden Towe Park



Figure 20: Some of the trash collected on the trip