



RIVANNA RIVER STEWARD REPORT

River Stewards: Dan Triman Date: 10-02-18

Starting Location and Time: Palmyra (9:30 AM)

Ending Location and Time: Columbia (3:30 PM)

Weather: Clear Skies / Sunny Recent Precipitation: Dry last few days

USGS Gauges: Earlysville 2.75 ft (250 cfs), Palmyra 4.50 ft (1500 cfs)

Water Color: Brown Water Odor: None Air Temp: 80° F

DO: 6 ppm PH: 7 Turbidity: 40 JTU Water Temp: 26° C

Water Testing Location: Palmyra Boat Ramp River Right (37°51.5'N 78°16.0'W)

Land Use:

Mostly vegetated along the banks and wooded areas, with some farms and residential properties along the way.

Wildlife Sightings and Plant Life:

Turtles, Small Birds, Butterflies, Dragonflies, Damselflies, Spiders, Fish, Crow, Green Heron, Squirrel, Bald Eagle, 1 Black Snake, 1 Green Snake, Osprey. There were a lot of large trees down along the banks, and a lot of leaves starting to fall in the River.

People Interactions:

I was joined on the paddle by Brian Coffield (VA Canals & Navigations Society, and Fluvanna County Parks and Rec). We didn't see anyone else out on the River today, but there was a man mowing the field at Palmyra boat ramp in the morning, and another man there in the afternoon.

Litter and Pollution:

Some smaller trash such as bottles and cans removed from the river today, as well as 1 tire, and a large piece of plastic. There were probably 20 tires spotted during the paddle along the banks or sticking out of the river, as well as a large metal tank, a trash can lid, and a boat wrapped around a tree. Also several locations with plastic hanging in trees.

Overall Summary:

This was the first time we were able to get down and paddle this stretch of the Rivanna this year. It is approximately a 16 mile stretch of the river that is the southernmost portion of the Rivanna, and ends where the Rivanna feeds into the James River. The weather and river conditions were



ideal today. For the most part things looked pretty good on this stretch of the Rivanna. There was some damage to the vegetation and banks from recent high water events (especially on properties where there wasn't as much vegetated buffer), as well as some trash found along the way. A lot of historic remains of old dams and walls (still in pretty decent shape) that were part of navigation systems of the past, were seen in various locations. Both the boat ramps we were at today (Palmyra and Columbia) were covered in mud / sediment and very slippery. The Columbia boat ramp was covered in several feet of mud from the water's edge for a long way up the boat ramp, making it very hard to get the boats out of the water and not slip. The James River was flowing much faster today than the Rivanna River was.

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

4 – clean off Palmyra boat ramp and Columbia boat ramp of sediment / mud; 4 – Remove larger objects from the River (tires, tank, etc.)



Figure 1: Baby Turtle we rescued from fast water at Palmyra



Figure 2: Brian paddling towards Palmyra bridge (Rt 15)



Figure 3: Large tree down in the River



Figure 4: Pipe outfall near Cunningham Creek



Figure 5: Black snake swimming across the river



Figure 6: Some of the tires seen today



Figure 7: Railroad bridge



Figure 8: Large tank

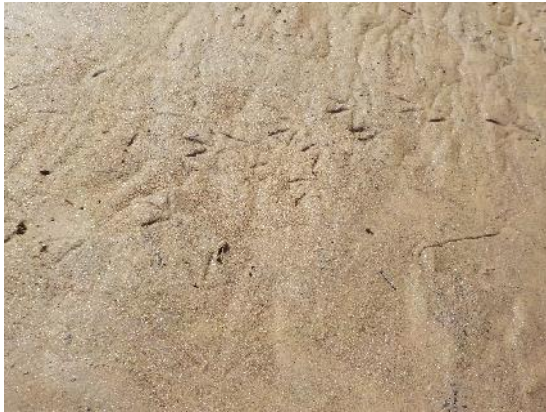


Figure 9: Bird tracks on a sand bank



Figure 10: Eroded bank



Figure 11: Remains of old Dam and side walls



Figure 12: Another photo of the same wall



Figure 13: Carrysbrook bridge



Figure 14: Green snake hiding in the vegetation



Figure 15: Plastic hanging in a tree



Figure 16: Damselfly that landed on my paddle



Figure 17: Tree house not looking too good



Figure 18: Route 6 bridge



Figure 19: Remains of Aqueduct Wall



Figure 20: Boat wrapped around a tree



Figure 21: Columbia Boat Ramp covered in sediment/mud



Figure 22: View of where Rivanna feeds into the James (looking upstream from Columbia Boat Ramp)



Figure 23: Trash removed from the River today