



RIVANNA RIVER STEWARD REPORT

River Stewards: Dan Triman & Justin Altice Dates: 04/10/19 & 04/11/19

Starting Location and Time: Darden Towe Park (10:00 AM)

Ending Location and Time: Riverview Park (12:00 PM)

Weather: Clear Skies Recent Precipitation: Some Rain Recently

USGS Gauges: Earlysville 2.15 ft (137 cfs), Palmyra 3.80 ft (800 cfs)

Water Color: Mostly Clear Water Odor: None Air Temp: 65° F

DO: 6 ppm PH: 7 Turbidity: 10 JTU Water Temp: 19° C

Water Testing Location: Darden Boat Ramp River Left (38°02.5'N 78°27.2'W)

Land Use:

Mix of commercial, residential, and park property.

Wildlife Sightings and Plant Life:

Turtles, Geese, Cardinal, Ducks, Small Birds, Butterflies, Crow, Hawk.
Spring vegetation starting to arrive along the banks.

People Interactions:

RCA participated in 2 paddles (1 each day on the 10th and 11th of April) in partnership with Rivanna River Company (RRC) to provide a paddling experience on the Rivanna River for a group of 50 students (25 each day) and teachers from Monticello High School. The students were all part of Chris Stanek's Environmental Science class at Monticello High School, and this paddle was part of a larger project where the students are designing and deploying water quality testing sensors in the Rivanna Watershed.

There was news coverage of the paddles from NBC (<https://www.nbc29.com/story/40294423/mhs-students-conduct-tests-on-waterways-using-homemade-devices>) and CBS (<https://www.cbs19news.com/content/news/Monticello-HS-students-create-devices-to-test-Rivanna-River-quality-508444721.html>).

For each paddle, one of the RCA River Stewards (Justin Altice on April 10th, and Dan Triman on April 11th), along with 4 staff from RRC guided the group down the Rivanna River, and we stopped along the way at a beach for RCA to talk to the students about the work we do, the health of the



Rivanna Watershed, and what they can do to help. Everyone helped to pick up any trash seen during the paddles as well.

Dan Triman has been working with Monticello High School and Albemarle County Schools for the past couple of years on this sensor project. The goal for the project is for the students to be able to collect water quality data that is useful to the local community and watershed organizations.

Litter and Pollution:

Between the 2 paddles, we removed about 6 bags worth of trash from the river and adjacent banks/beaches, as well as 2 large tires.

Overall Summary:

We couldn't have asked for better weather or river conditions for these 2 days of paddles. All of the students and teachers had a great time, learned about the Rivanna River and RCA, got to help clean up trash along the way, and collected water quality data for pH and temperature at the RRC boat dock just downstream of Free Bridge. RCA is glad to see great projects like this one with Monticello High School taking shape that can have important impacts and provide benefits to the local community and watershed organizations.

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

4 – Gather feedback from local watershed organizations on how this project can best serve their needs, and can lead to more collaboration locally.



Figure 1: Gabe Silver (RRC) doing safety briefing
(Photo taken by Albermarle County Schools)



Figure 2: Trash clean up on the beach
(Photo taken by Albermarle County Schools)



Figure 3: One of the sensors used by MHS students



Figure 4: Sensor deployed in the water



Figure 5: Preparing to depart from Darden Towe Park



Figure 6: Setting out on the paddle



Figure 7: Patch of Bamboo just downstream of Darden Tower



Figure 8: Turtle sitting on a log



Figure 9: Goose swimming in the water



Figure 10: Dan Trimman (RCA) talking to the students on beach



Figure 11: Aerial shot of the group on the River taken with Drone (Photo taken by Albermarle County Schools)