



# RIVANNA RIVER STEWARD REPORT

River Stewards: Dan Triman Date: 04-28-19

Starting Location and Time: Rio Mills Rd Below the Dam (1:00 PM)

Ending Location and Time: Rivanna River Company (5:30 PM)

Weather: Mostly sunny Recent Precipitation: Some rain recently

USGS Gauges: Earlysville 2.40 ft (180 cfs), Palmyra 4.00 ft (930 cfs)

Water Color: Mostly Clear Water Odor: None Air Temp: 70° F

DO: 6 ppm PH: 7 Turbidity: 30 JTU Water Temp: 22° C

Water Testing Location: 38°02.5'N 78°27.2'W Darden Towe Ramp

## 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, Osprey, Crow, Butterflies, Tree Swallows, Small Fish, Snakes, Squirrel, Green Heron. Some flowering colors along banks such as native azalea.

## People Interactions:

Rivanna River Company (RRC) shuttled us and provided the kayaks for our paddle today. This was our spring clean up paddle to get ready for the Rivanna RiverFest on May 11<sup>th</sup>. We also had 2 officers from the DGIF Conservation Police with us on the paddle, and they provided their jet boat to haul the larger trash objects for us. The Albemarle County Parks & Recreation staff also assisted with disposing of the trash we removed from the River on the paddle. We had a total of 11 people on our paddle today.

We saw several other people out on the River paddling in kayaks and canoes today, as well as several people enjoying the beaches along the banks of the River, and a couple of people fishing. There were a number of people at the Darden Towe boat ramp area as well.

## Litter and Pollution:

We removed a significant amount of trash from the River today. Some of the larger items we found were a canoe, a buoy, a recycling bin lid, pieces of plastic, metal, sports balls, tires, and fishing poles. In all we removed



about 10 trash bags worth of small bottles, cans, plastic bags, and other smaller items, as well as 8 tires.

**Overall Summary:**

River conditions and the weather were about as ideal as we could have hoped for today. We had a very successful clean up paddle, saw some good wildlife, removed the majority of the trash we saw in this stretch of the River, and everyone had a great time. There was one strainer we identified on the South Fork where a tree was down in the river, that would be good to try to remove if possible.

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

- 2 – Try to remove the strainer (tree down) on the South Fork prior to the Rivanna River Race on May 11<sup>th</sup>.
- 3 - Remove the rest of the small trash;
- 3 – Remove larger items found in the River



Figure 1: Starting the paddle under 29 bridge



Figure 2: One of the turtles seen today



Figure 3: DGIF Jet Boat



Figure 4: Removing trash from a tree limb



Figure 5: Snake along the river bank (possibly an Eastern Hognose Snake)



Figure 6: Rapid under Railroad Bridge



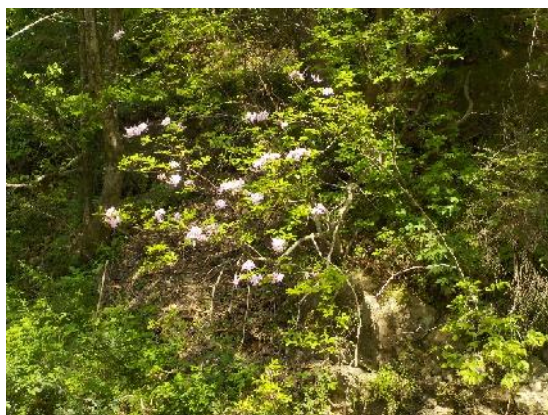


Figure 7: Native azalea blooms



Figure 8: Green Heron sitting in a tree



Figure 9: Large group of butterflies



Figure 10: Trash collected being dropped at Darden Towe



Figure 11: Someone fishing near Darden Towe Park



Figure 12: Large tank at River left just below Darden Towe





Figure 13: Another large object near the tank if Figure 12



Figure 14: Paint on Free Bridge abutment is fading



Figure 15: Group Photo