



The Newsletter of the Dan River Basin Association

# CURRENTS

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**TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM**

**DRBA RECEIVES HONORS**

**EVENTS IN PATRICK AND  
CASWELL COUNTIES**



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Meetings of the DRBA Board of Directors are held on the second Wednesday of February, May, August and November. The next meeting will be on August 8.

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**CURRENTS**

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On the cover: The Carlisle school releases trout with Congressman Robert Hurt. -photo by Brian Williams

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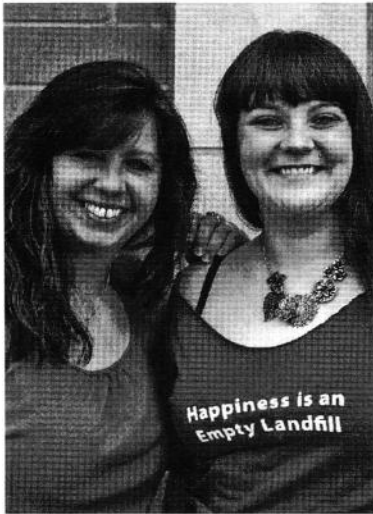
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A new bridge in Lauren Mountain Preserve. —Photo by Brian Williams

# FROM THE DIRECTOR



Tiffany Haworth (left) and Liz Pritchett, DRBA Intern. -photo by Nancy Bell

I saw one of DRBA's interns the other day wearing a t-shirt with big, bold letters that read, "The only good landfill is an empty one." Many of you know that DRBA is working to stop a proposed landfill beside the Dan River near the intake of drinking water for many who live in Rockingham County, NC. We are in the classroom teaching students about the importance of reducing, re-using and recycling.

We share standards, tools and practices with universities, government, businesses and other organizations working to apply zero waste and sustainability strategies that improve profitability and competitiveness.

DRBA is doing a lot, but trash still poses a threat to our natural resources. A study by the EPA showed each

person creates about 4.4 pounds of waste per day. This results in about 250 million tons of waste generated in the United States.

So, what can I do - what can all of us do - to reduce our carbon footprint during this season of being barefoot? According to the EPA, the most effective way to reduce waste is not to create it in the first place. Waste is not just created when we throw items away. Waste is generated throughout the life cycle of a product, from extraction of raw materials, to transportation for processing and fabrication and distribution, to manufacture and use. Reusing items or making them with less material or packaging decreases waste dramatically. Ultimately, fewer materials will need to be recycled, combusted for energy, or landfilled.

I told our intern when she gets tired of that shirt she was wearing, I would trade her one of my slogan t-shirts for it - that's re-using. This summer, I am going to try to reduce the packaged items I buy by 50%. Finally, I'm going to continue to separate my cans and paper and take them to a recycling center, but take it one step further by offering to take my neighbor's recycling too.

What are you going to do this summer to reduce your waste creation? Send me your ideas and suggestions!

-Tiffany Haworth

## PRESIDENT'S SPACE



DRBA President Fletcher Waynick.

As the new DRBA President, I am awed by the trust and confidence placed in me by the DRBA board and staff, and will work diligently to prove worthy of that trust. I have some huge shoes to fill following past President Wayne Kirkpatrick, whose dedication to DRBA's mission and inspirational leadership are impressive.

I continue to stand in awe of the amazing work ethic of the Board, staff and volunteers, all of whom have worked countless hours on a variety of projects. I am proud to say that DRBA is not only an advocacy group but, in fact, places "boots on the ground", putting in

many hands-on hours working on programs and initiatives. DRBA is the type of organization where we can all move from successful to relevant.

As we move ahead, I look forward to meeting those in the basin whom I haven't so far met and reviewing the progress on the many projects currently underway. I want to continue Wayne's emphasis on increasing the organization's fiscal stability and to build on and add to the partnerships DRBA has formed across the basin.

I also look forward to the challenges faced as the organization continues to grow and evolve. Change is a constant, and new and continuing threats to the basin and its waters must be faced and overcome as they arise.

As I go on with the learning process that began when I became a member of DRBA, I will depend on our excellent staff and trust they will be patient with a new President and offer their wise counsel as we, with Board members and volunteers, continue moving DRBA into an exciting, diverse and expanding future.

-Fletcher Waynick



# FEATURES

## Trout in the Classroom's Largest Season Yet!

TIC's 7th season sponsored 32 tanks in 27 educational locations in five counties: Henry, Patrick, Franklin, Pittsylvania and the newest addition, Rockingham. Around 3,000 students were reached, and an estimated 2,000 Brown and Rainbow trout were released into the Smith and Dan rivers. 31 classrooms received an educational presentation either in the classroom or by the river on release day.

TIC welcomed a few special guests to the releases. Congressmen Robert Hurt and Morgan Griffith asked many questions about the program and the problems of



Woolwine Elementary at Jack's Creek covered bridge.  
— photo by Krista Hodges

the river. Robert Hurt told the Martinsville Bulletin, "It is wonderful to see such a successful program that helps students appreciate their natural resources and the beauty of wildlife in Southside Virginia."

Col. Stephen A. Baker, Wilmington District Commander for the Army Corps of Engineers and Craig Rockwell, Philpott Lake Operations Manager, came by for another release. Col. Baker, excited to release a trout in the Smith, named his fingerling "Timmy" before saying his farewell!

New Henry County Schools Superintendent, Dr. Jared A. Cotton, joined Rich Acres Elementary for their release in May.

A veteran teacher of TIC since 2005, Mrs. Rozina Turner at Woolwine Elementary was allowed to release her trout into the Upper Smith River. The approved location has always been the Lower Smith, but she asked DRBA to get special permission because she and her students have been monitoring the water quality at Jack's Creek Covered Bridge for ten years. Since the water usually has an excellent rating, they knew the trout should do well there. It is a real life lesson and connection for the students, who make sure

the stream is healthy and then introduce the young trout they have cared for so long.

TIC's success would not be possible without such dedicated, hardworking teachers and students and the wonderful donors who help support the program. Thank you to all!

To find out how you can support this excellent environmental education program, please contact Krista Hodges at [khodges@danriver.org](mailto:khodges@danriver.org).

—Krista Hodges

## Letter from a TIC Student

Trout in the Classroom, sponsored by Dr. David Jones, has reached thousands of students in the region over seven years. This year, Melissa Talley's Pre-AP science class at Ben Franklin Middle School in Rocky Mount, VA, participated in the program for the first time. One of her seventh-graders, Brittany Peters, emailed Dr. Jones shortly before her thirteenth birthday in April. Here is her message, followed by his reply.

*Dear Dr. Jones,*

*THEY HAVE GROWN!!!! I can't believe that we started with these little eggs and now they are so big!!! We will be releasing the fish May 12th. We are releasing the fish then going canoeing! I still can not believe we are releasing the fish in just two weeks! I love the trout in the classroom program and I am so thankful that because of you we get the chance to participate in this wonderful program!! I feel like me and my whole class have been affected by the fish! I can not thank you enough!*

*Sincerely, Brittany Peters*

**From Dr. Jones:**

*Brittany – you are wonderful!! Don't ever change from the great person you are!! YOU are going to make a difference in this world!*



Congressman Morgan Griffith at a trout release.  
—photo by Brian Williams

## DRBA Honored by South Atlantic Division Corps of Engineers

May 9th was a SAD day for the DRBA Board of Directors. SAD is the Corps of Engineers abbreviation for South Atlantic Division. The Board was addressed at their May meeting by 'Rocky' Craig Rockwell, Operations Project Manager of Philpott Lake, to share some good news from SAD.

In November 2011, the staff at Philpott Lake nominated DRBA for the Corps' 2011 Excellence in Partnership award in recognition of DRBA's integration into the environmental stewardship, environmental education, recreation, and overall public perception of Philpott Lake.

DRBA was chosen as the Wilmington District nominee to the SAD competition. DRBA went on to be chosen as the SAD nominee to the national competition

He concluded by thanking DRBA for all they do, saying, "The staff and visitors of Philpott Lake benefit greatly from our partnership with DRBA."

—Rocky Rockwell

## Litter Prevention Grant

In partnership with Henry County Public Schools and Henry County, DRBA has been awarded a "Keep Virginia Beautiful" grant to increase public awareness of litter prevention. Area students will compete for the artwork and slogan that may be placed on one or more county garbage trucks, as well as signs, stickers, and clothing. In addition, a county-wide event will be held riverside to clean up litter along the Smith River.

"We are thrilled to partner with DRBA and Henry County Schools on this project," said Henry County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jim Adams. "Our community needs everyone working together to tackle our litter problem, and this is a great start."

"Having children design the artwork and slogan provides a sense of accomplishment for the students and educates them about the litter problem," said Brian Williams, DRBA project leader. Added DRBA Executive Director, Tiffany Haworth, "I'd love to see this happen in communities throughout the Dan River Basin."

"Our students are creative, critical thinkers who will undoubtedly be part of the solution in taking care of our community today and in the future," said Melany Stowe, spokesperson for Henry County Public Schools.

Keep Virginia Beautiful grants are made possible by KVB partners Capital One, Waste Management and Lowe's.

—Nancy Bell



DRBA board members accept the Excellence in Partnership award for environmental stewardship.

— one of seven nominations from across the country to compete at the top. Word came back in mid-December that the Friends of Caesar Creek in Louisville District had won the national award.

However, SAD, in recognition of all the excellent nominees throughout the five districts within SAD, decided to award DRBA as the winner of the SAD competition.

Rocky was at the meeting to present that award to the group. He began by reading the summary of the original nomination package, which ends with this statement:

Philpott Lake would function just fine without DRBA's help. But, the entire Dan River Basin, including Philpott Lake, would lack something essential without them.

He said, "That something essential — that *je ne sais quoi* — a special quality that's hard to put your finger on — is what makes DRBA unique in the world of environmentalism."

## Stewardship Update

As part of our mission to preserve the resources of the Dan River basin, DRBA is actively partnering with other groups and individuals to address three serious threats to our water and land. Here are brief updates; more details can be found at [www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org).

**Uranium Mining Task Force:** The Virginia governor's Uranium Working Group (UWG) gave very short notice of their April 4 session and refused to answer questions from the press. UWG said it would provide written summaries of its reports to the Coal and Energy Commission (CEC), allowing public access to comments submitted to UWG, but only after the fact. The UWG's composition, funding, and meetings are not disclosed to the public. Moreover, in

its site-specific assessment, the UWG plans to rely on data provided by Virginia Uranium, Inc., which seeks to have the ban on uranium mining lifted. DRBA members are urged to submit comments and questions to the UWG at [www.uwg.vi.virginia.gov/](http://www.uwg.vi.virginia.gov/) and to attend their public briefing for the CEC at 6 pm on June 18 at Chatham High School, Chatham, VA.

On May 2-3 DRBA cohosted Sarah Fields, a citizen expert from Utah with first-hand experience living near uranium mining, milling, and radioactive waste storage, who spoke in Martinsville and Danville. Her presentation is on YouTube.



Cub Scout Troop 2611.

Preservation Virginia has named the Coles Hill site and surrounding area a Most Endangered Historic Rural Landscape. This designation recognizes the site's importance to heritage tourism, as well as risk factors resulting from the proposed uranium mining and milling, including subsidence, dust pollution, blasting and abandonment.

**Hydraulic Fracturing (Fracking):** On April 17 DRBA hosted scientist Hope Taylor of Clean Water for NC for a talk and showing of "Gasland" at Rockingham Community College. As a result of the information she provided, DRBA's Board of Directors adopted a resolution at its May 9 meeting, urging the NC legislature and governor not to legalize fracking in the state. The resolution, posted at [www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org), was emailed to every NC legislator whose district includes any part of the Dan River basin, as well as the governor and lieutenant governor.

Several DRBA members took part in an anti-fracking lobby day in Raleigh on June 5. The largest single group attending the event came from Stokes and Rockingham counties. Unfortunately, the legislature appears bent on legalizing fracking in North Carolina.

**Landfill Task Force:** DRBA's opposition to the Special Use Permit for a riverside regional landfill near Eden has entered another phase. Our appeal of the Planning Department's decision to accept the developer's application

was heard in Superior Court May 23-24. The judge's order, expected in early June, had not been issued by the deadline for this article. DRBA continues to oppose the issuing of a Special Use Permit for the landfill.

—*Olga Kolotushkina and T Butler*

## Around Patrick County

Patrick County Rivers & Trails Group (PCRTG) held roadside clean-ups in Ararat on April 28 and on May 1 in Fred Clifton Park with Cub Scout Troop 2611. These hard working Cub Scouts were awarded Stewardship Virginia Certificates of Appreciation signed by Governor McDonnell. PCRTG's next meeting is at 7:00 pm on July 19, in the Stuart PHCC Community room, where DRBA's Brian Williams will speak on trail development.

DRBA intern Anna Wallace, who continues to work on the county's recreational and cultural inventory, staffed a DRBA booth at the Landmark Center Wellness Fair on June 2. Landmark owner, Victor Williams, is interested in establishing a trail through the Landmark property that will connect the Mayo River Rail Trail (MRRT) with recently developed trails at Rotary Field. DRBA, PCRTG, Landmark Center and Rotary will meet to discuss making this a reality.

The Activate Martinsville Mobile Bike Barn visited Stuart on June 8 in conjunction with the Stuart Farmers Market (SFM) to promote an active lifestyle and healthy eating. Bicycles were available at no cost to ride the MRRT. After enjoying an easy journey alongside the Mayo River, riders visited the nearby SFM for fresh garden offerings.

—*Wayne Kirkpatrick*

## Currently in Caswell County

**"Wild Child" Scavenger Hunt:** To celebrate Earth Day, DRBA hosted a scavenger hunt for grades 3-5 at Maud Gatewood Park in Yanceyville. During the April 23-26 event, students located and talked about such items as bird and squirrel nests, evergreens, and North Carolina's state tree, flower and bird.

After the students found all of their items, they placed their handprints on a banner that states "Helping Hands, Together We Can," pledging to help keep our natural surrounding clean and healthy.

**Orchard Lake Trail Opens:** On May 19 DRBA charter board member Forrest Altman led several DRBA members on a dedicatory walk on the meandering Orchard Lake Trail in Yanceyville. At the terminus at Yoder's Marker,

all enjoyed meeting and talking with owners Rick and Liz Smith as they sampled trail mix. We anticipate having all of the signage and other amenities added to the trail in the near future.



Students participated in the "Wild Child" Scavenger Hunt.



Susan Pendergraph of the Caswell County Animal Protection Society cuts the ribbon on the new trail.

**Caswell's First DRBA Dogs Event:** After the Orchard Lake Trail hike, DRBA members and guests headed over to the Animal Protection Society of Caswell County for the first DRBA Dogs/Tails on Trails event in Caswell County. Everyone checked out a dog of their choice and took it for a nice stroll on the new trail behind the animal shelter. This trail is open to the public and will be used to take shelter dogs out for regular exercise. DRBA members and the public are welcome to go by the shelter and check out a dog during the shelter's operating hours to get some exercise.



Forrest Altman leads a walk on the Orchard Lake Trail.

## Mark Your Calendar!

Among upcoming events of interest (details on DRBA web site):

**August 11, Wentworth:** Museum & Archives of Rockingham County opens, Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibit "Journey Stories"

**August 18, Greensboro:** DRBA display at Paddle Days, sponsored by REI

**September 7 - 9, Martinsville:** VA State Master Naturalist Conference, DRBA and Virginia Museum of Natural History will conduct classes and fieldtrip to Fairystone State Park about the life cycles of aquatic insects.

**October 12 - 14, Stokes County:** 2012 Dan River Sojourn, two nights of camping, two days of paddling the Dan River in Stokes County through beautiful Fall foliage, meals provided, educational and historical programs, register at [www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org)

**October 20, Stuart:** Third Saturday Outing at the Kirkpatricks' for DRBA members. Strenuous hike from Primland property down the "Indian Ladder" (former alignment of the Appalachian Trail) to the base of Pinnacles of the Dan; then follow the Dan River downstream to the Kibler Valley Hydro-plant. Pot-luck meal after the hike.



Madi (7) and Dood, Tails on Trails event. -photo by Laurie East



Cooling off in the creek. -photo by Laurie East



# OUTINGS

## April 7 on the Dan – Berry Hill to US 58

April's First Saturday Outing with DRBA, coordinated by Will Truslow, could not have been a better introduction to my 2012 kayaking season. I only purchased my first kayak toward the end of last year, so I've been anxiously awaiting the onset of Spring and the opportunity to get out on the river. Lucky for me, DRBA intern Anna Wallace introduced me to DRBA's regular outings.

Saturday's chilly morning turned into a beautifully clear day. With me were my friend Andy Gregory and his mother, Karen Gregory. Karen was a first-time canoer so she and Andy rented a canoe from Three Rivers Outfitters. When we reached the Berry Hill Bridge, Three Rivers was conveniently waiting for us with everything ready to go.

There was a brief pow-wow to remind everyone to sign a waiver form and a short history lesson about the ways the river was used to transport goods in the past. Mark from Three Rivers was a huge help in launching the flotilla of 43 people in over 30 boats.

About a mile and half into the trip, we came into sight of a Blue Heron Rookery. I had never seen one before so I was truly impressed by the two large trees with nearly a dozen nests in each. There were Herons perched in trees with several flying around overhead. I'm sure we can attribute the presence of Herons, Ducks and several other water-residers to the absence of development along the river.

When we pulled up to the take-out at the US 58 Bridge, Three Rivers and other volunteers were there to help people out of their boats and get everyone's gear loaded. While I am a pretty adventurous guy, I'm sure I never would have floated this section of the Dan River if DRBA hadn't coordinated it. It's great to have a community resource like DRBA who actively maintains relationships that facilitate the gathering of like-minds and quality experiences.

While Patrick County is home, I've spent

the past couple years living in Colorado and Oregon and traveling in the American West. There always seemed to be an abundance of outdoor-enthusiasts and conservation-oriented people, which due to some unfortunate preconceived notion, I expected to change when I moved back to Stuart last fall. It has been a pleasant surprise to have run into DRBA and I look forward to winding down a lazy river with them again soon!

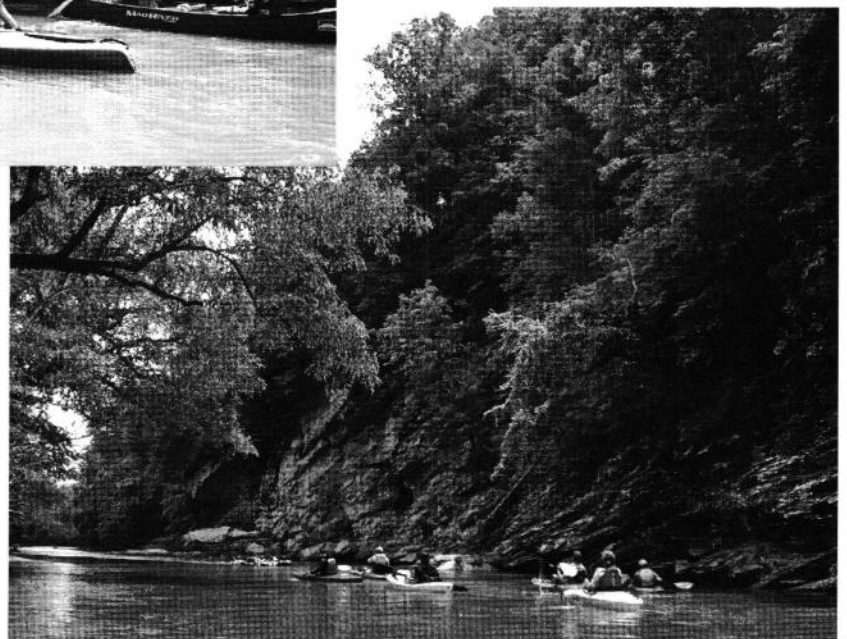
—Conrad Kreage

## Kayaking With DRBA

*Editor's note: Adam Snead and Zach Owen of South Boston, both 13 years old, paddled the Dan from Hanging Rock to Moratock Park on DRBA's June 2 First Saturday Outing.*

This was our first float with DRBA and it was AWESOME!

When we pulled up to the river access it was a large group of people unloading kayaks and canoes. It looked interesting. We unloaded our stuff and waited by the river for the shuttle to return. We got in the water and paddled up stream while we waited for everyone else to get on the river. The morning temperature was about sixty-five degrees and the water was VERY cold. As we started kayaking we noticed a tree and something fell out of it and it was a black snake.



Dan River, Hanging Rock to Moratock. —photos by Melissa Talley.

We enjoyed the current taking us down stream at a comfortable pace. We would go on the opposite side of the rapids as everyone else. The river was mostly calm, but our favorite parts were the small rapids. Later on when we stopped for lunch we found rocks and skipped them across the river to see who could skip the rocks best.

The scenery was all about nature with vibrant green trees and rock cliffs and one amazing cave in the rock face. Several DRBA members would tell us different things about the Dan River. The members of DRBA would make sure everyone had a fun and safe trip. Way over fifty people attended the float and all of them had a great time.

—Adam Snead and Zach Owen

## Confessions of Three First-Timers on the Smith

*Editor's note: Often DRBA hosts first-time paddlers on our public outings, but rarely do we get to read their accounts about the trip. Here Kathy DeFriece, wife of DRBA member Jim, and Brenda and Joe Williams relate their experience on the Sports Complex – Mitchell Bridge outing on May 5.*

**Kathy:** Jim had some canoeing experience and about all I had was a reluctant attitude. But, Jim was so excited I didn't want him to be disappointed. I knew he wouldn't go if I didn't. After scrutinizing the kayaks we rented and talking to some of the experienced DRBA members, I felt less anxious. That is until it was time to get in the kayak. The You-Tube video that I watched the night before kept playing in my mind about how to get in without flipping, correct paddling techniques, etc. As I walked down the bank with my kayak, there were a couple of friendly faces waiting in the water to assist me. They told me exactly what to do. Okay, they made that easy.

**Brenda & Joe:** To our surprise there was a large crowd, 42 kayaks and canoes in all – a regional group for sure. It appeared they all knew what to do, ready for fun, except us. With considerable apprehension we started to get in the boat and received our important first lessons – 1 foot and butt to the bottom, don't stand up, and how to correctly hold the paddle. We were surprised at the stability and maneuverability of the little kayaks.

**Kathy:** Now seated in the kayak on the river, I thought everyone looks so calm and relaxed. Right away, members started introducing themselves and giving me paddling instructions. I began to feel more comfortable. We made our way down the river. Where the water was high, the ride was smooth and my confidence began to build. Where the water was low, the river became an obstacle course. "Stuck

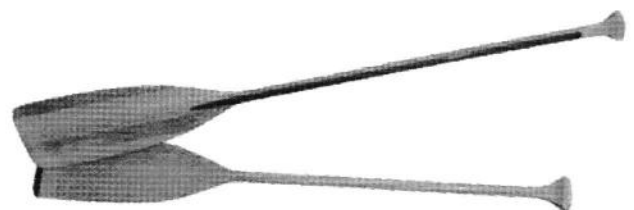
between a rock and a hard place" now had a new meaning to me. But when I had trouble maneuvering, instantaneously, another paddler was there to lend a helping hand and offer an abundance of encouragement.

**Brenda & Joe:** We got lots of help and encouragement from experienced paddlers, especially picking out the best lines to take around rocks since we didn't know how to "read the water." The Smith turned out to be more beautiful and serene than we ever expected – huge trees overhanging the water, flowers in bloom, green everywhere, no cars or roads, and the river was pristine clean – what a surprise! You just cannot imagine how beautiful until you see it from the water. At Eggleston Falls we sat in the middle of the river on huge boulders to enjoy our lunches, share snacks, and talk about DRBA activities past and future. By the end of the day, we were beginning to feel "experienced."

**Kathy:** Before the six mile ride came to an end, I had relaxed and enjoyed the beautiful scenery surrounding me. Four hours kayaking on the Smith River for the first time had been tiring and at times frustrating. But I learned a lot and managed to stay afloat. I was also overwhelmed by the kindness shown to me from so many of the DRBA members. Thanks to them, my attitude about kayaking had changed to a more positive one. I will definitely go again! This First Saturday Outing made me realize that DRBA not only works to preserve and protect our environment, but they provide fun outdoor adventure opportunities like this one for our community.

**Brenda & Joe:** Both of us hope others will give paddling a try in a group such as this – it is safe and fun, and a chance to meet and make new friends. You don't need to own a kayak or canoe since there are 2 outfitters on the river who will do it all for you – deliver your boat and equipment right to the water's edge and pick you up at the take-out – how easy is that? Give them a call or contact the DRBA office for information. Of course, you do the paddling! We are excited about doing this again and hope others will join us on the water.

—Kathy DeFriece, Brenda and Joe Williams





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March. 3, 2012 | May 31, 2012

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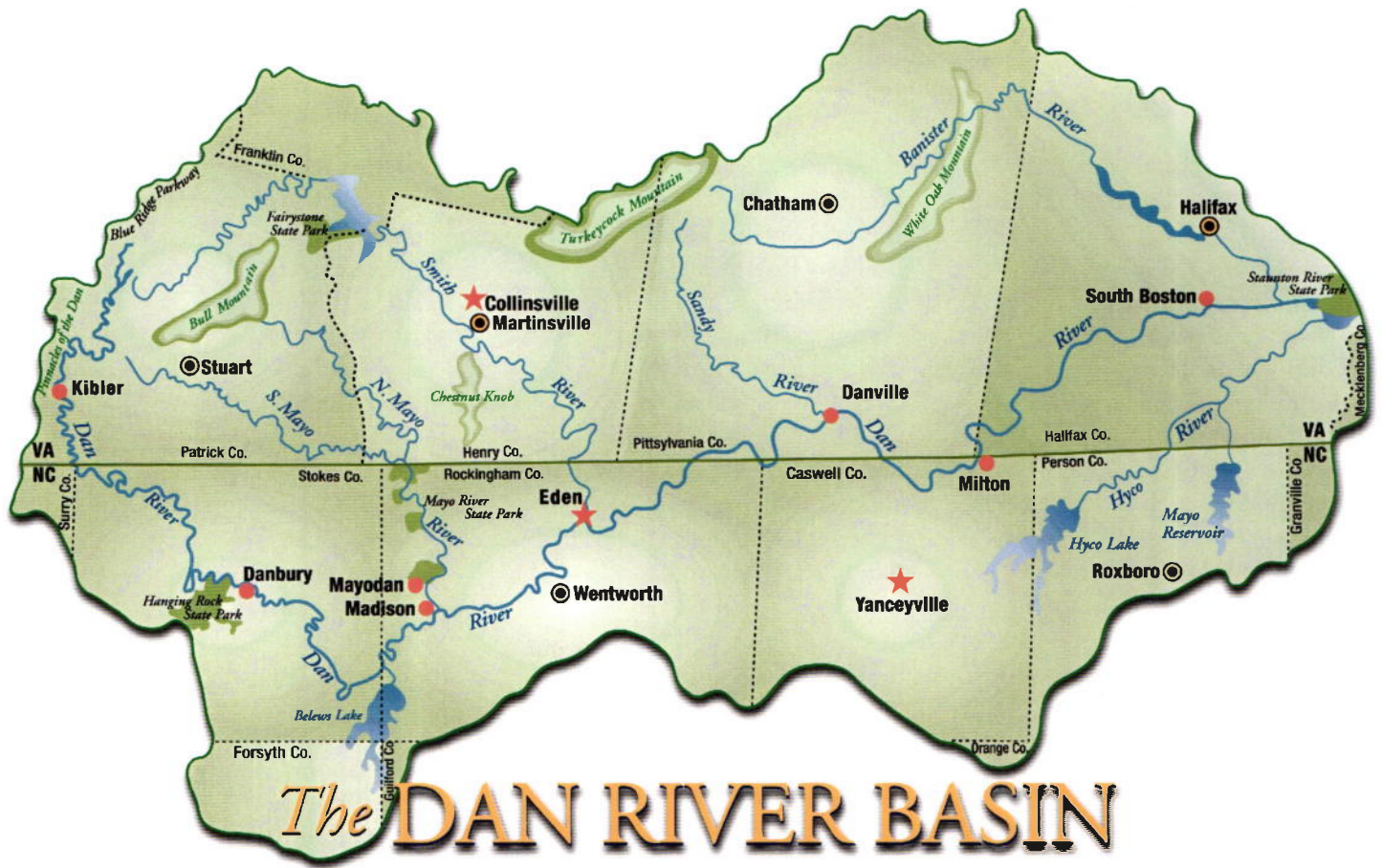
Peter and Melissa Hairston  
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Richard and Kathy Miller  
Ayla Wilk



Releasing trout.



Gabbie France, 2, recently attended a trout release with her mother, a teacher. She was given a cup with one trout in it to release, squealing with delight as she did so. She is the daughter of Jonathan and Sarah France of Franklin County. (Photo courtesy of Virginia Museum of Natural History)



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