



Dan River Basin Association

CURRENTS

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Anniversary Edition • DRBA Receives Prestigious Partnership Award • Earth Day 2017

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Dan River Basin Association

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(left to right) Helen Howell, Innovative STEM-H Program of the Year; Karen Adams, STEM-H Educator of the Year; Sydney Brown representing VMNH for the Community Champion for STEM-H Education; Dr. Dietra Trent, Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Virginia; **Krista Hodges representing DRBA**, Ernie Shepherd representing the US Army Corps of Engineers-Philpott Lake, and Todd Cassell, representing Martinsville City Public Schools as the recipients of the Elite STEM-H Education & Industry Partnership Award

DRBA RECEIVES PARTNERSHIP AWARD

DRBA believes in partnering with others to achieve more together than anyone can alone. On March 2 at the 5th Annual Southern Virginia STEM-H Summit in Danville, DRBA’s collaborations with Martinsville City Schools and the US Army Corps of Engineers were recognized with the prestigious 2017 Elite STEM-H Education & Industry Partnership Award.

Accepting the award for DRBA was Krista Hodges, DRBA’s tireless Education Manager, who bears the primary responsibility for DRBA’s impressive suite of environmental education programs.

The award citation reads, “The Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) has partnered with Martinsville City Public Schools for more than a decade on the Trout in the Classroom program, reaching thousands of students since 2005. In 2012, a new education program formed between DRBA and the Army Corps of Engineers at Philpott Lake, Streamside Trees in the Classroom, an environmental education program for elementary students to learn about water quality and the importance of streamside vegetation.”

UMAR TRAILS CREW RECOGNIZED

UMAR Trails Crew received their Certificate of Achievement in Sustainable Trail Building from Mayor Jeffrey Bullins before the Mayodan Town Council. UMAR serves people with disabilities, and this great crew worked with Tony McGee of RoundRock Design and DRBA to build trails for three schools and the Mayodan

M o u n t a i n Bike Trail. A huge thanks is extended to Lowe’s Home Improvement, The Conservation Fund, Duke



Energy, Rockingham County Community Foundation, Reidsville Area Foundation, Riverbank Fund of the Dan River Region, West Rock Rivers & Trails Group, Greensboro Fat Tire Society, The Mad Bean, and DRBA members for all your support of these guys and these trails.

MONOGRAM LOVES KIDS

FOUNDATION GRANT

In December the Monogram Loves Kids Foundation (MLKF) awarded grants to fourteen charitable organizations in Martinsville and Henry County. MLKF is the philanthropic arm of Monogram Foods, which operates the Monogram Snacks plant in Martinsville. A committee of team members from the company reviewed all the grant applications and distributed an average of \$2,500 to each organization.

DRBA is grateful to MLKF for a grant to develop environmental education programs for more than 7,500 students, enabling them to get out in nature and explore the Dan River Basin.

TWO NEW TOURISM DIRECTORS

Patrick and Henry counties have recently engaged new Tourism Directors. Sandra Puckett in Patrick and Sarah Hodges in Henry have hit the ground running, bringing energy, enthusiasm and experience to their respective positions. Please welcome both of these ladies to the basin.

DRBA'S 15TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE MEMBERSHIP was held on March 4, 2015 at the Natural History in Martinsville. President Jennifer Atkins welcomed everyone and thanked VMNH for hosting the event. Approximately 55 attending, DRBA conducted its annual business meeting. Reports on the membership and finances were presented, and the election of new and continuing board members.

DRBA's staff participated in a panel discussion of their activities across the basin, with audience questions probing issues such as dam releases, and their individual stand-out activity of the past year. Several individuals, a business, and a municipality were honored with various awards—Service to DRBA to Carl Espy, and to George and Lee Templeton, Municipal to the City of Eden, Partnership to Lowe's Hardware, Volunteer of the Year to Calyn Wall, and a special presentation of DRBA's highest award, the Dan River Basin to Mark Bishopric.

Following a brief film on Hellbenders, the keynote address was presented by Virginia Tech professor Dr. Andrew Dollo. Dr. Dollo, a Research Biologist of the Center for Forest Watershed Research, he gave an engaging presentation on Brook Trout and Anadromous Trout.

The meeting concluded with DRBA Executive Director, Tiffany Haworth, highlighting the wide range of programs DRBA staff and volunteers are administering in 2017.

After a lunch break, Paul Johnson coordinated a hike on portions of the Smith River Trails system.



CITY OF EDEN WINS DRBA MUNICIPAL PARTNER AWARD

DRBA honored the City of Eden, a DRBA Municipal Member, with its Partner Award for the city's cooperation with DRBA in developing environmental education, stewardship and recreation. Highlights include:

- Hosting Otter Float during their Riverfest to promote river recreation;
- Working in partnership with DRBA to accomplish cleanups, park and river access projects, and MillerCoors River Projects;
- Completing and working on city plans to improve water quality, increase tourism and recreation;
- Hiring a professional photographer to capture wildlife images in and around the river.

City of Eden Economic Development Director Mike Dougherty accepted the award on behalf of the city. DRBA and the city are also working on new trails, including one along Matrimony Park Nature and Educational Trail. DRBA's Jenny Edwards is working with the city on these projects and is also part of the newly created Eden Rivers and Trails Committee, which will focus on development within the city.

Two DRBA Board members have joined Dougherty on the Dan River Implementation Team since September, 2014, to address the effects of the coal ash spill. One of the team's assignments is the River ST8 Crossings regional marketing campaign, which includes a brand for the Dan River site along with videos, billboards and social media. A regional group is being assembled for the campaign beyond 2017. Mike Dougherty

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enhancement, tree planting and other projects with the

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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

Water may be a natural resource, but clean water is an earned privilege. DRBA staffers Amy Farinelli and Krista Hodges, as well as DRBA volunteers, are working diligently to expand DRBA's environmental education programs to ensure clean water and to raise awareness so citizens won't take it for granted.

At a recent training session in Danville, 22 participants learned how to sample streams for the presence of coliforms, a bacterial pollutant whose source is animal or human feces. Some of the trainees also volunteered to adopt a stream for monthly sampling. DRBA is partnering with Averett University, which has volunteered to process the samples. The results will be posted on the Interactive Map found on the DRBA website.

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) is going strong again, with 26 schools participating. DRBA staff and a volunteer recently conducted a day of environmental education for TIC students in grades K – 5 at Woolwine Elementary School in Patrick County. The Tub-of-Bugs showed the relationship between macroinvertebrates in the stream, the water quality, and the food sources for the trout being raised by the students. Concurrent classroom presentations featured Weaving a Food Web and a Trout Life Cycle video and/or game. TIC schools across the basin have the opportunity to choose among these presentations.

Upcoming DRBA Environmental Education activities include Trees in the Classroom planting day at DeHart Park in Stuart from 10:00 – 2:00 on Tuesday, April 11; the Tub-of-Bugs at both the VMNH Earth Day activities on Friday, April 21 from 9:00 – 2:00 and the Halifax Earth Day Extravaganza on Saturday, April 22 from 10:00 – 2:00; and TIC releases from mid-March through late May.

Being a DRBA volunteer for Environmental Education helps touch the lives of our youth to instill appreciation of our natural resources – be one today! Contact DRBA to volunteer!

Wayne Kirkpatrick

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Setting our clocks forward, longer days, daffodils poking up through the soil, and buds bursting on the trees all indicate that Spring is about to arrive. And when Spring arrives, Earth Day, April 22, will be just around the corner. You'll find us at several Earth Day celebrations around the basin. This year, celebrate Earth Day with DRBA! Tiffany Haworth

AFTER COAL ASH -**BASIN RESTORATION**

Two DRBA leaders, Executive Director Tiffany Haworth and Board member Wayne Kirkpatrick, joined VA Tech Extension's Martha Walker and Duke Energy's Mark Oakley for a panel discussion at the March Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute meeting. The session was a professional development program for leaders confronted with Virginia's most pressing natural resource issues who seek new skills in conflict resolution and collaborative problem solving.



Tiffany Haworth

Focusing on the Dan River coal ash spill and the related/subsequent activities to date, the discussion gave an overview of the 2014 event, actions taken immediately following the spill, longer term activities, and lessons learned. The ongoing collaboration among multiple partners has accomplished a measure of restoration to the Dan River and to the residents and businesses of the basin.

A public event has been scheduled at 10:00 am on April 26, 2017 at Rockingham Community College to announce the results of this collaboration.

THURSDAY TRAIL TREKKERS

Martinsville and Henry County are home to many miles of beautiful hiking trails. The Thursday Trail Trekkers, co-sponsored by Henry County Parks & Recreation Senior Services and DRBA, meets on Thursdays to explore a different trail every week. Hiking at designated locations throughout the county, and some-

times in nearby parts of neighboring counties. We have no minimum age requirement and all the trails selected are moderate in length and difficulty.

Hikers interested in this program should pre-register with Senior Services at 276- 634-4644. Meeting time is 9:15 a.m., starting the first week of April. Destinations for that month include Beaver Creek Reservoir, Mayo River State Park, the Lauren Mountain Trail, and Smith River Sports Complex.

Paul Johnson, who has been with the group from the beginning, reports increasing participation in 2017. "We now have 14-16 hikers every week after starting out with 4-6, as word gets out about what wonderful nature destinations there are right here at home. It's a very friendly group that welcomes newcomers and continues to grow."

FEBRUARY 4 AT REYNOLDS HOMESTEAD

On a chilly Saturday morning in February, Sherry Wright and I ventured out for our first Reynolds Homestead (RH) experience. Kyle Peer, Superintendent of the RH Forestry Resources Research Center, led our group of seventeen up and down old logging roads discussing intricacies of forest management, research and associated maintenance. Some interesting elements were related to mitigating erosion and maintaining good water quality associated with unpaved roads. Projects ranged from rain gardens to filter sediment from rapidly flowing rainwater to testing the cost, durability and effectiveness of different stream crossing designs for vehicles.

Kyle led us into young stands of Loblolly pine where high-tech devices monitor a range of factors thought to impact growth. We hiked through stands of older hardwoods, areas undergoing natural succession and a plot recently clear cut for future research

on shortleaf pines. And, we learned a cool term—wolf tree—a tree, larger than surrounding forest trees, that once grew in the open and often indicates the location of an old home site.

Kyle hoped that one take-away idea from our hike was that forest management is not just about cutting trees, but about applying research-based practices that yield optimal health for the forest as a whole. He said, "We must learn how to care for our forests to insure them for future generations."

Reynolds Homestead forest and historical site offers customized group tours year round. Call 276-694-4135, or visit <http://www.reynoldshomestead.vt.edu>.

Sonja Wolen

MARCH 4 HIKE

After DRBA's fifteenth Annual Celebration of the Membership held at VMNH on March 4, eight hikers and one friendly dog accompanied coordinator Paul Johnson on a hike that began in Wilson Park located behind the museum and later led along the Silverbell Trail portion of the Dick and Willie Trail. Johnson shared information about the trail development in Wilson Park and some of the history related to the Dick and Willie Trail.

Part of the Smith River Trail system developed by partnerships between DRBA, Martinsville, and Henry County, these well-used paths are now several years old. Walkers, joggers and bicyclists of all ages take advantage of the trails each day. The Silverbell Trail, so named for a unique species of maple tree that sports delicate white hanging bell-shaped blooms in early spring, is also adorned with bronze sculptures of various animals including a snake, a turtle, and a trout. The trail system, which continues to be expanded, is a source of pride for DRBA and for MHC.

Wayne Kirkpatrick



Mark Oakley

NEW FOR EARTH DAY!

On Earth Day, April 22, DRBA will launch three new programs:

- 1) Kids4Rivers, sponsored by the Monogram Loves Kids Foundation, is a cool way for kids and families to get involved helping to protect and conserve our natural resources. The program inspires kids to do just three simple things a month. A prize is given to participants.
- 2) The Clean Up Crew program invites families and corporate, community and church groups to do their own clean up event on land or water. DRBA will provide the supplies and can help find the best location. In some cases, a discount for boat rentals may be available.
- 3) The Clean Water Pledge is an easy and quick way to show you care about our region's waterways. Each pledge you take represents an action you promise to do and will be recorded along with pledges made by other participants. DRBA hopes to demonstrate that our region truly cares about protecting and conserving our natural resources!

Be sure to join the many citizens who take pride in the Dan River and the beauty of the Danville River District for the Earth Day Spring Cleanup. Meeting at 9:30 in front of the train station at the Crossing at the Dan/Danville Science Center, 629 Craghead Street, all participants (ages 12 and up) will be provided with gloves, litter-getters, and trash bags. The two-hour cleanup is cosponsored by DRBA, the Danville Science Center, and Danville Parks and Recreation.

This event is free and open to the public. Registration by April 19 is appreciated but not required. Contact Amy Farinelli (afarinelli@danriver.org).



MEMBERSHIPS 1/1/2017 - 3/15/2017

Sponsors

River Legacy Circle

Mark Bishopric
Joe & Ellen Jessee
Wayne & Betty
Kirkpatrick
Allison Szuba
Sherri Wright

Protector

Janine Howard
Sharon M. Olson

Steward

Nancy Bell
Tom Edmonds &
Margaret Gurley
Andrew Garner
Tiffany Haworth
David & Karen Jones
Jones & Deshon
Orthodontics
Fletcher & Ginger
Waynick

Family

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Adcock
Milton and Lloyd Barber
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John & Audrey Buck
Tom & Gloria Butler
Luanne Cherochak
Eric and Sarah David
James L. Franklin Jr.
Shari and Randolph
Hopkins
James & Kara Kirkpatrick
C.H. and Edith Knight
Bill & Linda McConahey
David and Traci Morton
Thomas Rachner
Carol and Siler Rothrock
Sonya Wolen

Single

Heather Adams
Elaine L. Day
Jessica Driver
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Lee Jarrett
Travis Lovell
Gregg & Joan Mason
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Outdoor Designs Inc.
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1/1/2017 - 3/15/2017

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Allison Szuba
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Other

Milton and Lloyd Barber
Nancy Bell
Elaine L. Day

Thomas Emory
Carl Espy IV
Ann Garbett
Janine Howard
Wayne & Betty
Kirkpatrick
Paul and Patricia May
Joseph Mize
Robert O'Neal
Lee Templeton
Fletcher & Ginger
Waynick
Sonya Wolen

Friends of Chinqua

Penn Walking Trail

Integrative Healing Arts
Therapy Centre
Straders Mall Shop Inc.
John & Marcia
Strickland



The Dan River Basin



DAN RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION
413 Church Street, Suite 401
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www.danriver.org

Water Protector Certification

Do you have a home or business in the Dan River Basin? If so, you can become a Certified Water Protector!

The Water Protector Certification recognizes homeowners and businesses who are successfully taking steps to improve water quality by reducing the amount of storm water and pollution leaving their property. Even if you can't see a waterway from your home or business, your actions still impact the Dan River and its tributaries. Every time it rains, fertilizers and waterways. This pollution results in everything from cloudy water to algae blooms and can make our waterways unsafe for swimming and fishing.

Becoming a Water Protector is a simple way to help protect the Dan River basin.

What's on the Certification Application?

You will be asked to document activities such as Water Friendly Practices, Everyday Actions, Best Management Practices for Farming (if applicable), Protect Storm Drains, or Proper Septic System Care at your home or business. These things include activities like installing rain barrels, native plantings, streamside vegetation plantings, rain gardens, or permeable pavers; committing to turn off the water while brushing your teeth, limiting shower time, and recycling; scooping dog waste, composting, and mowing practices. You don't need to do them all, but you will be asked to upload pictures and documentation of your efforts. You can preview the Certification Application before you get started on DRBA's website.

Rewards

In addition to doing your part to protect our waterways, as a Certified Water Protector you'll receive great rewards. Once you complete your Certification Test and return it, you will receive a welcome email with details about where to get discounts at local garden stores and nurseries in the basin, along with how-to information for completing the requirements. You will also receive a window decal for your vehicle or home/business, Water Protector yard sign and garden flag.

Check out the full application at: <http://www.danriver.org/form/water-protector>

Water Protector Application

Personal Information

First Name *

Last Name *

Email *

Address *

Business Name

Water Friendly Practices

Select and document at least 3 Water Friendly Practices from the list below that you currently have in place. Photo documentation of 2 practices must be included. *

- Rain Barrel(s)
- Native Plantings
- Tree Planting/Streamside Vegetation
- Rain Garden
- Permeable Pavers/Pavement
- Septic System Maintenance
- Volunteer for a stream-clean up or wetland restoration event
- Take someone on a hike near a river or lake

Photo 1 *

Choose File No file chosen

Photo 2 *

Choose File No file chosen

Best Management Practices for Farming

We Need YOU to be a Water Quality Improvement Stakeholder!

There are streams in the Dan River region that violate water quality standards for bacteria. Litter, agricultural runoff and lack of riparian buffer are primary stressors, although there are other challenges in our area. Once problems are identified, the next step is to create a plan that reduces pollutants in our waterways.

Through a generous grant from the River Bank Fund of the Community Foundation of the Dan River Region, DRBA is recruiting active stakeholder committees to develop strategies that will result in improved water quality in our watershed.

There are three stakeholder committees: Residential, Urban, and Agriculture. Each group will:

- Develop strategies to decrease stressors on our waterways;
- Have access to funding to complete priority projects; and
- Determine how to keep their committee sustained in the future.

To become a Water Improvement Stakeholder, you don't have to be an expert in water quality. We're looking for volunteers who have a passion for a clean environment, are interested in improving our region, and are dedicated to the project. As a stakeholder, you also agree to:

Give your time for one year and regularly attend working group meetings, online discussions or events related to your focus area;

- Make a serious commitment to participate actively in the committee activities, staying informed about group matters, preparing well for meetings, and reviewing notes and reports;
- Volunteer for, and willingly accept, assignments and complete them thoroughly;
- Be an active participant in the committee's annual evaluation and future planning efforts; and
- Participate in discussions and activities related to sustainability for the stakeholder committee.

How to Join

For more information, to ask questions, or express interest in joining one of the Water Quality Stakeholder Committees, please contact:

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434-792-3700 ext. 233