



Dan River Basin Association

# CURRENTS

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**16 years and counting!**  
**Spring Brings New and Exciting Events**  
**FSO's on the Water**

# Currents · Volume 17 · Issue 2

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### DRBA Board of Directors

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Cover Photo by Betty Kirkpatrick



## DRBA Sixteenth Annual Celebration

Historic Vade Mecum, a mineral springs spa from the early 1900s now part of Hanging Rock State Park in Danbury, NC, was a fascinating setting for DRBA's 16th Annual Celebration on March 3. Seventy-nine members and guests braved chilly weather in the large wooden gymnasium to peruse displays, participate in the business meeting, hear a stellar program, munch delicious goodies, and learn about DRBA's amazing accomplishments over the past year.

New board members elected were Jim Tobin, Tyler Carter, and Shawn Gorman. Newly appointed board secretary Margaret Petty gave the membership report, and retiring officers Wayne Kirkpatrick and Mark Bishopric were elected to three-year terms, along with Laura Meder, who begins her second term.



DRBA staff members Jenny Edwards, Krista Hodges, and Brian Williams reported on highlights in 2017, which included development of new trails and parks, partnerships with other groups across the basin, significant educational programming, and robust stewardship activities. Office and Accounting Manager Robin Light gave a summary of DRBA's finances and goals. Tiffany Haworth, Executive Director, presented comments on the overall picture and stressed the importance of municipal partnerships in covering the 3,300 square mile range of the Dan River and its many tributaries.

Jennifer Atkins, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Sonya Wolen, and Jenny Edwards presented well-deserved service awards to Dan LaPrad for his environmental education programs; Jeanean Bustamante for her outstanding service as an intern; Jessica Driver for her environmental stewardship as a Citizen Water Quality Monitor; the Boxley Corporation for its corporate partnership; and Julie Glandt, Volunteer of the Year.

Hanging Rock State Park Ranger Jason Anthony presented a very interesting, thoroughly researched program, "Stokes County Mineral Springs Resorts: Reclaiming a Lost History." Unlike nearby Piedmont and Moores' springs, Vade Mecum is a rare survivor of the state's popular early twentieth century mineral springs resorts.



After a lunch of homemade chili, many participants explored the grounds on a hike led by Steve Shelton.

Margaret Petty and T Butler

## Patrick County News



On April 1 Buffalo Mountain in Floyd County will receive visitors from halfway around the world. Six Rotarians from India District 3060, Rotary International Exchange Program participants who are visiting the Stuart Rotary Club, will join DRBA volunteer Wayne Kirkpatrick on a hike to enjoy the wildflowers, native plants, and views that Kirkpatrick calls "among the best in the region." He continues, "DRBA's organizational philosophy is one of partnership and collaboration, and this opportunity to showcase the natural assets of the region with overseas visitors is a perfect example of promoting that belief."

The Stuart Rotary Club recently did a roadside clean-up. DRBA is named as a partner in the Pick-up Patrick County campaign coordinated by the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce, whose executive director is DRBA member Rebecca Adcock.

Woolwine Elementary Trout in the Classroom students recently hosted DRBA's Trout Day. Krista Hodges, DRBA Environmental Education Manager, and DRBA volunteer Wayne Kirkpatrick shared the Trout Life Cycle, Food Webs, and the Tub of Bugs with multiple grades throughout the day.

## Dan River Implementation Team

The Implementation Team (IT), established to develop and enhance a regional marketing effort across the Dan River Basin, became an affiliate of DRBA in 2017, engaging DRBA as their fiscal agent to administer the funding for the marketing campaign. The regional brand, “st8crossings,” reflects the river’s many state line crossings and the 8 core counties of the basin.



Financial support for the campaign has been received from Duke Energy and nine municipalities/counties throughout the region. The IT has also engaged the services of a marketing firm, Silver Lining Design, to upgrade the current marketing vehicles – the st8crossings web site, utilizing social media, and promoting the regional brand.

As this effort moves forward in promoting the natural and cultural assets of the region, the IT is transitioning management of the marketing vehicles to the tourism and visitor center professionals across the basin. This expanded group is expected to provide funding for the campaign beyond 2018.

Duke Energy, as part of their reparations after the 2014 coal ash spill, provided initial funding for the marketing effort and established a solid foundation of a brand and basin-wide marketing campaign. Silver Lining Design will take the campaign to a higher level that will benefit the basin for years to come. *Mark Bishop*

## Eden’s New Animal Shelter Trail

Life for shelter dogs in Eden is getting a little better. Friends of Eden Animal Rescue and DRBA teamed up to build a natural surface walking trail for volunteer dog walkers on City of Eden property near the Dan River. On March 10th, some 17 volunteers gathered to hand finish the trail and “christen” it by walking shelter dogs. Volunteers also picked up several bags of trash.

According to Lisa Haraway Goldsworthy, Friends of Eden Animal Rescue board member, “Studies have shown that socialization and exercise have been positively correlated to increased adoption rates for shelter dogs. We expect that this trail will inspire people to come volunteer to give a dog a walk in the woods down to the beautiful Dan River, and in doing so, give those dogs a better chance to find loving homes.”

Project funders include Rockingham County Community Foundation with funding provided by Duke Energy, Reidsville Area Foundation, House of Health Eden, CrossFit Eden, City of Eden, Eden Rivers & Trails Group, and DRBA members. It is the 4th animal shelter trail inspired by DRBA, joining the Caswell County Animal Shelter, Rockingham County Animal Shelter, and Martinsville Animal Shelter.

Friends of Eden Animal Rescue is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in 2014 to save stray and shelter animals in the City of Eden and Rockingham County, NC. Their mission is to provide support for abandoned, lost or stray animals that find themselves at the Rockingham County animal shelter. *Jenny Edwards*



**Find out more**  
**[www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org)**

## Rain Barrel Workshops

Rain barrel workshops have been popping up around the basin this spring, just in time for gardening season. In February DRBA held its first workshop of 2018 in Eden, NC, where over 20 participants from as far away as Salem and High Point attended, creating 20 barrels in Eden's second-ever rain barrel workshop.



The next workshop was held in Danville, a first-time location for DRBA's rain barrel program, at the Danville Science Center. The City of Danville partnered with DRBA to publicize the workshop and encourage participation.



As a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, Danville is dedicated to providing better storm water education through partnerships with organizations like DRBA and the Danville Science Center. The workshop was a success, with 12 barrels being constructed

and taken home at the end of the evening.

The last workshop is scheduled for April 12th in Martinsville at the Virginia Museum of Natural History from 5:30-7:30 pm. Space is limited to 20 barrels and already a handful of participants have registered. Anyone who wants to attend must pre-register and pre-pay on the Shop DRBA page ([www.danriver.org/shopdrba](http://www.danriver.org/shopdrba)) or by contacting Krista Hodges at [khodges@danriver.org](mailto:khodges@danriver.org) to pre-pay by check. DRBA plans to hold more rain barrel workshops this fall or early next year.

The rain barrel workshops are made possible through a partnership with River Network, Coca-Cola Foundation, and The Rain Barrel Depot. Krista Hodges



## Belews Park Planning Begins

Duke Energy has donated an approximate 100-acre parcel to Rockingham County for development as a passive park featuring a variety of amenities. Two public meetings and online surveys have suggested hiking and mountain biking trails, a disc golf course, a scenic overlook, an adventure playground, picnic shelter, restrooms, dog park area, and initial parking lot for 30 vehicles. Located in southwestern Rockingham County, the park will serve as an outdoor classroom for the RCC TRAILS program.

An Advisory Committee is working with the design company, obs Landscape Architects (obsa), to develop the Master Plan for the park, which was accepted by the Rockingham County Board of Commissioners with some requested revisions. Next step for obsa and the Advisory Committee is to prepare a Facility Design Manual for the Belews Lake Greenway, for which the park will serve as a future trailhead. The manual will include a branding package for signage and trail amenities and architectural character images for structures that may be associated with the greenway in the future. Wayne Kirkpatrick

## High Rock Ford Event

In partnership with the Museum & Archives of Rockingham County (MARC), DRBA is helping create a river access and trail on the upper Haw River in southeastern Rockingham County at High Rock Ford, an important colonial and Revolutionary War site. A trash pickup is scheduled for Saturday, April 21, from 10:00 – 1:00, with lunch provided. Come help clean up this beautiful location and hear about how it will connect our region to the Haw River Corridor and anchor the Mountains to Sea Trail. Contact Jenny Edwards, [jedwards@danriver.org](mailto:jedwards@danriver.org) for details.

**Join  
DRBA  
Today!**



## January 6 on the Fieldale Trail

DRBA's first outing of the year was exploring the Lower Fieldale Trail, part of the Smith River Trail System, in Fieldale, VA. We chose this portion of the trail because we thought it would offer the best scenery, and it did not disappoint. The Smith River was frozen over in most areas, and rhododendrons had gone into survival mode, curling their leaves in on themselves.



All four of us were bundled up in layers, rendering a couple of us unrecognizable. We completed the 1.5 mile out and back, totaling three miles for the outing. Only a

few body parts were numb at the finish. I was very surprised to see others using the trail on such a cold day (9 degrees)! We had a great time exploring and talking (and I only fell once)!

I made an additional stop on the way back to Danville at Marrowbone Creek in Ridgeway, VA to see Fisher Dam. The creek looked like frozen land and the dam was quite spectacular! Jennifer Atkins

## Staunton River State Park FSO

On a cold, sunny February 3, two dozen weather-brave folks and 3 dogs convened at Staunton River State Park, one of six original VA state parks that opened in 1936. Its 2,300 acres border the John H. Kerr Reservoir (Buggs Island Lake) and the Dan and Staunton rivers.

Led by the park's chief ranger, Ben Isaacs, we hiked 2 scenic miles, stopping first to admire original CCC-built cabins. We continued to "The Point," a Virginia National Landmark with a spectacular view, where the two rivers come together to feed the lake. As we spread out along the beach, the dogs dipped their paws into the river and drank from the giant water bowl.



From there we continued on through a lovely wooded area, passing the equestrian campground and stalls. It was a little early for flowers, but the lichen display was impressive.

The hike ended at the park's Olympic-sized pool, great for summertime. Ranger Isaacs told us about the park's designation as an International Dark Sky Park—ideal for stargazing. The park offers interpretive astronomy programs and rents telescopes.

Staunton River State Park is 18 miles east of South Boston, VA. More information is at [http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/staunton-river#general\\_information](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/staunton-river#general_information) Sonya Wolen

## March 3 Hike at Vade Mecum

*Editor's Note: Connie Blair and Carol Love both shared their memories of this outing.*

**Connie:** What a gem North Carolina has in Hanging Rock State Park and Vade Mecum! After stepping into history with Ranger Jason Anthony, 31 of us (and one dog) accompanied local historian Steve Shelton on a guided tour of the grounds. Hundreds of Trout Lilies, dozens of which were blooming along the trails, showed us spring had arrived.



**Carol:** We wandered down a trail to the original spring house, hearing stories of buildings that once occupied the area, which has completely reverted to forest. At the broken

dam that once created Diamond Lake we heard stories of guests "Shooting the Chute" in a hollowed log. We saw the location of the store and dance pavilion, and gazed uphill at the homesite of John Sparks, the circus owner and former resort owner who reportedly had planned to breed circus animals on the property before his untimely death.

**Connie:** The 1902 Hotel that the park is restoring was lovely, a reminder of the spa's glory days. The area was gorgeous, with massive rock outcrops along the stream, and I will be back to explore and hike. Thanks to all the wonderful people from DRBA for a great day. I love going on adventures with your group! Connie Blair & Carol Love

"Despite the forecast, live like it's spring." - Lilly Pulitzer

It's that wonderful time of year when snow finally melts and trees begin to blossom. Even though Mother Nature seems a bit confused this year, sending snow for a cold welcome to the new season, I just can't wait until temperatures rise and our forests and rivers come alive again. Spring brings rebirth and renewal, with the change happening right before our eyes.

Start something new this Spring - become a Citizen Water Quality Monitor, take a rain barrel workshop, be a Certified Water Protector, organize a Cleanup Crew, take the Clean Water Pledge, lead a storm drain marking project in your neighborhood....The good news is that you can learn how to do all of these things at [danriver.org](http://danriver.org). We hope to see you outside, making a difference this Spring! Enjoy! Tiffany Haworth, Executive Director, Dan River Basin Association

## Memberships 1/01/2018 - 3/23/2018

### Sponsor Membership - River Legacy Circle

Allison Gentry  
Joe and Ellen Jessee  
Betty Kirkpatrick  
Wayne Kirkpatrick  
Sherri Wright

### Protector Membership

Marcus and Sarah  
Brinks  
Janine Howard

### Steward Membership

James and Ursula Allen  
Nancy Bell  
Tom and Gloria Butler  
Barry Dorsey  
Margaret Gurley and  
Tom Edmonds  
James and Kara  
Kirkpatrick  
Ben and Debbie Lewis  
Walter Miller, Jr.  
Fletcher and Ginger  
Waynick

### Family Membership

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Buck, Jr  
Jeffrey and Jean M.  
Bullins  
Tyler and Ashley Carter  
Luanne Cherochak  
Elaine Day  
Alice and Lee Dodson  
James Franklin, Jr.  
Rebecca Gibson  
Nathaniel Hall  
Bruce and Angela King  
Fred and Laura Meder  
Michael Mondul  
Henry and Nancy Moore  
David and Traci Morton  
Steve Shelton

### Individual Membership

Marianne Aiken  
Jennifer Atkins  
Atticia Bundy  
Thomas Emory  
Julie Glandt  
Kathie McKinney

James McMillan, Jr  
Latala Payne-Hodges  
James Piller  
Janice Walker

### Donations 1/01/2018 - 3/23/2018

#### Sponsor Donations

Lindley and T Butler  
Home Trust Bank

#### Benefactor Donation

Town of Mayodan

#### Protector Donations

Joe and Ellen Jessee  
Wayne and Betty  
Kirkpatrick

#### Steward Donations

James and Ursula Allen  
Kurt and Norma  
Bozenmayer  
Tom and Gloria Butler  
Allison Gentry

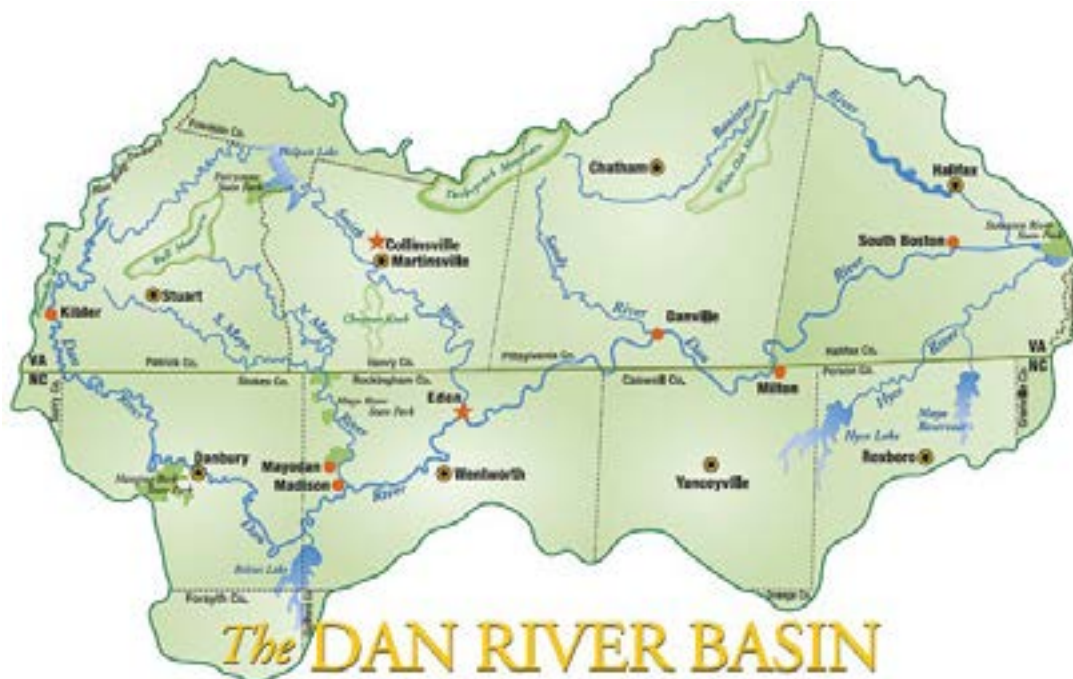
Lane and Mrs. Louise  
Miller  
Sherri Wright

#### Other Donations

Nancy Bell  
Barry Dorsey  
Thomas Emory  
Janine Howard  
Elizabeth Marquez  
Latala Payne-Hodges  
Fletcher and Ginger  
Waynick

#### Friends of Chinqua Penn Walking Trail

Home Trust Bank  
James Piller  
William Plummer







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## **First Saturday Outings**

**April 7: Paddle Mayo River, Mayo Beach to NC 770**

**May 5: Paddle Dan River, Whetstone Creek to Eden  
Wildlife Access**

**June 2: Paddle Dan River, Highway 311 – Pine Hall Bridge**

**July 7: Paddle Philpott Lake, Jamison Mill**