

A black and yellow butterfly is perched on a green plant with white flowers. The background is a clear blue sky. The butterfly's wings are spread, showing a pattern of black and yellow with white spots. The plant has several green leaves and white, fluffy flowers. The overall scene is bright and natural.

CURRENTS

Dan River Basin Association

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**A Dream Becomes a Reality
DRBA Celebrates 200th FSO
All New Water Protector Certification Program
Art in Nature Auction -- It's Back!**

Currents • Volume 18 • Issue 4

Dan River Basin Association

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To find out how, visit us at
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Cover Photo: Linda Park

Two Mayo River State Parks Expand

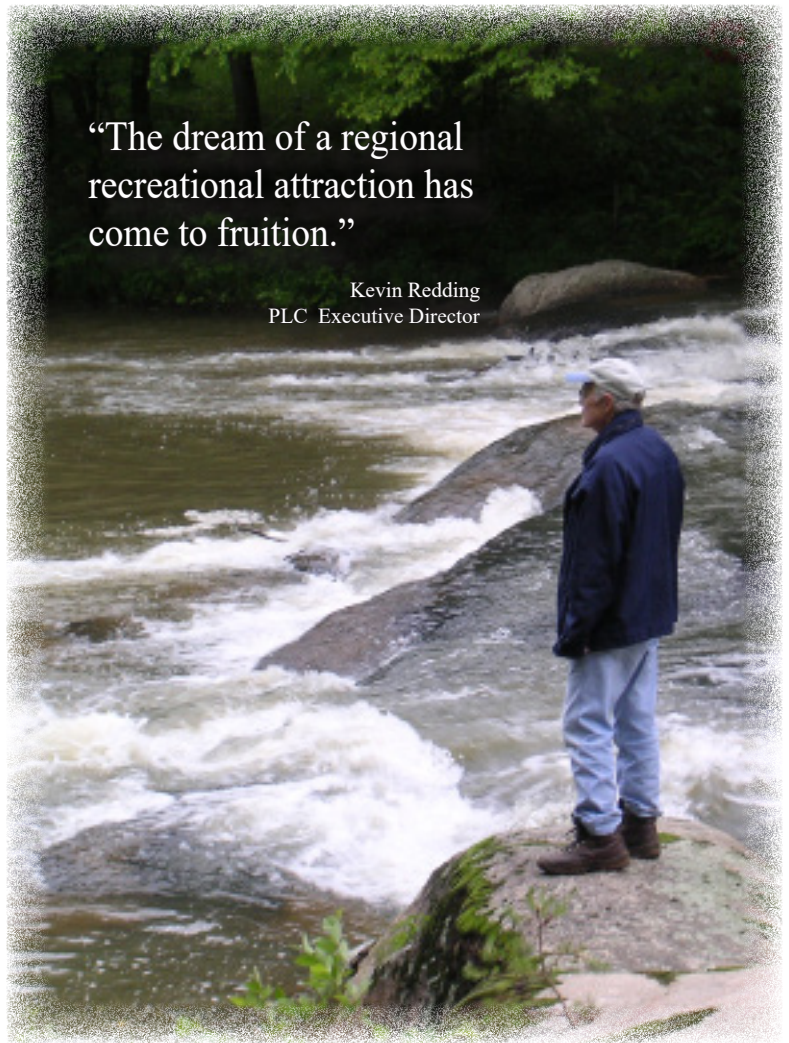
In late 2002 the Rockingham County Commissioners asked founders of the fledgling Dan River Basin Association to undertake establishing a Mayo River State Park. Six months later, on 31 May 2003, the North Carolina legislature authorized the park, responding to DRBA's success: thirty-three resolutions of support, funding for a background study, and submission of a legislative bill. DRBA continued to work on the park, visiting landowners who might be interested in the park, guiding naturalists and new park staff on river trips, and participating in public meetings. Within five years the park owned some 2000 acres.

Meanwhile, in 2006 DRBA's founders and new executive director Katherine Mull were instrumental in the establishment of the adjacent Virginia Mayo River State Park. Following paddle trips with DRBA volunteers, both the North Mayo and South Mayo rivers were declared Virginia State Scenic Rivers.

In 2016 funding from Duke Energy and work by the Piedmont Land Conservancy (PLC) added 320 acres to the North Carolina park. Earlier this year Duke Energy and PLC added 213 acres along the North Mayo River to the Virginia park. But one crucial North Carolina parcel was missing—the Stairsteps, the Boiling Hole, and Mayo Beach—all of which were tied up in a trust. This past July, that 64-acre parcel became part of the NC park thanks to additional funding from Duke Energy and persistent work by PLC.

At the riverside, PLC Executive Director Kevin Redding declared. "The dream of a regional recreational attraction has come to fruition."

T Butler



"The dream of a regional recreational attraction has come to fruition."

Kevin Redding
PLC Executive Director



Above: DRBA founder Lindley Butler stands at Byrd's Ledge on the North Mayo just upriver from the confluence of the North and South Mayo

Left: Butler paddles the water of the Mayo below the confluence.

Floating Lotus

The Floating Lotus was held Friday, September 20 at a beautiful venue in Bassett, Virginia. Almost 300 flowers



were purchased in advance to remember and honor loved ones



or to commemorate special events. Several people set their own flowers afloat at

sunset, while others entrusted DRBA to place their flowers on the calm water.

Mountain Valley Pipeline for the Southern Virginia Mega Site?

In a recent article, Katie Whitehead, a native and resident of Pittsylvania County, explored the impact the Mountain Valley Pipeline Southgate Extension (MVPSE) would have on the developing Southern Virginia Mega Site. Her research indicates that although the MVPSE route would pass through the mega site, it would have no connection point for the area's businesses. Furthermore, she contends that the Williams Transco line, which has an existing gas gate on the property and an abundant gas supply, has sufficient capacity to meet customers' future needs.



For Whitehead's complete article, see Whitehead: MVP Southgate Extension Not Needed, Even at the Mega Site at www.godanriver.com.

Protecting Our Water with DRBA

Opportunities await you! The environment has never been more in the news than in the past five years, both worldwide and here at home. We learn more and more each day about how our lifestyle is changing our planet—the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink. Our actions are often helpful but can also be detrimental, unknowingly and unintentionally.

All are agreed, however, that clean, safe water is criti-

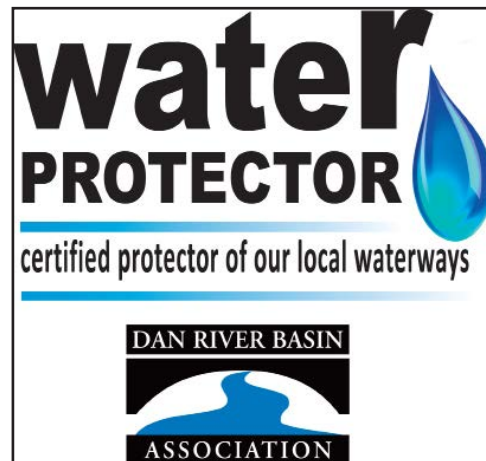
cal for life. Whether your drinking water comes from a river, lake, or well, it is affected by the waterways in our region. Businesses, communities, and individuals concerned with conserving our resources are working harder than ever to make a change. And now, you too can make a difference.

DRBA is committed to protecting our water supply; and we hope you will join us in our efforts. Here is how you can help.

Commit to conserve and protect our water by taking the Clean Water Pledge at <https://www.danriver.org/form/clean-water-pledge>. You'll promise to make good choices and take simple actions to care for our water. Become a Certified Water Protector. By completing the application online at <https://www.danriver.org/support-drba/take-action/water-protector-certificate> and submitting a small application fee, you will receive your choice of a garden flag, a yard sign, or a window decal to display in your home, organization, or business: a declaration for all to see of your commitment to protect our water.

Become a Citizen Water Quality Monitor (CWQM). There are many types of monitoring our rivers and streams, so whether you have a lot of time or just a few hours a month there is a place for you and for your community organizations. Visit www.danriver.org to find out more about volunteering as a CWQM River Watch Monitor, a CWQM E. Coli Monitor or a CWQM Macroinvertebrate Monitor. For additional information, including CWQM training sessions, contact Krista Hodges, khodges@danriver.org.

You can make a difference! If you and your friends, family and community join in the effort, we can all make a positive change in the world. DRBA is here to guide you. We hope to hear from you soon.



Forest Bathing

The Japanese have a name for it: Shinrin-yoku, or Forest Bathing. The idea is simple; spending time in the forest improves physical and mental health. Substantial research documents that time in the natural environment boosts the immune system, lowers blood pressure, improves mood and provides many other benefits.

Have you been in an old-growth forest and felt something special? The idea is really very old but is perhaps being rediscovered in our over-stuffed world. It helps a lot to walk in a relaxed, meditative manner.

Turn the cell phone to airplane mode.

Jim Tobin



DRBA Offers Hands-on Environmental Science Experiences

Over 1000 students in the basin have experienced hands-on, project-based learning through DRBA's Environmental Education program. According to Krista Hodges, DRBA's Education Manager, such programs foster teamwork, leadership, willingness to take risks, and social responsibility.

"Children in our communities not only need the opportunity to learn about our natural resources, but need

to feel connected to the outside world around them, and DRBA is the only environmental organization that provides these opportunities in our area," Hodges observed.

Among the programs offered are Trout in the Classroom, in which students raise trout from eggs to fingerlings, monitoring water quality through chemical and biological testing and observing life cycle changes. In collaboration with STEM teacher Ms. Laurie Witt, the STEM Family Night at Albert Harris Elementary offered opportunities for students and their family members to investigate problems that might arise with the trout, such as improper water temperature or quality.

Students in Streamside Trees in the Classroom root native black willow cuttings and plant them along waterways that need restoration.

Along the way they observe, investigate, and record measurements for their seedlings.

Hodges reports that over 40 schools have requested DRBA's programming for this school year. She expressed gratitude to the Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia and the Dr. John D. French Legacy Fund for their generous financial support.



Children release the trout they raised in their classroom

From the Executive Director

As the leaves turn brilliant colors and fall from the trees, it's easy to see first-hand the amazing work of nature. What you may not see every day is DRBA's work, which reaches thousands of people across the region through water quality monitoring, environmental education programs, cleanups, outdoor recreational asset planning and construction, and more. This critical work is made possible by your contributions and your shared mission of DRBA—to preserve and protect our local natural and cultural resources. As 2019 nears its close, please remember that every single dollar and/or hour of volunteering you invest in DRBA is making a real, positive impact. We are truly grateful for your support.

Tiffany Haworth

Recreation

July 6 FSO Paddle from Draper to Berry Hill

Overcast skies during the launch from Eden's Draper Landing cleared to reveal a beautiful sunny day for DRBA's 6.5-mile July float. The Dan River was high, swift and murky, and an estimated 100 fallen trees lined the banks.

Mark Bishopric, Will Truslow (point), Wayne Kirkpatrick (sweep), and Dillon James helped launch an enthusiastic and colorful fleet: 21 kayaks, 3 tandem canoes and one paddleboard. DRBA's concern for conservation was



Paddlers bask in the sun on the Dan River

evident on this fun and scenic river outing. Mark informed us: "All but one of seven sluices through ledges and shoals along the float were constructed in the 19th century by Roanoke Navigation Company engineers." And, he said, "These sluices still benefit boaters today by making the river floatable even in extreme drought." DRBA co-founder Jeff Johnston mentioned his work as a geologist on other rivers; in particular we spoke about the pollution and clean-up of the Anacostia River near my home in Alexandria, VA.

After about three miles, the group paused on a sandy beach, eating sandwiches amongst the friendly flutter of yellow Tiger Swallowtail butterflies and flamboyant Zebra white and black Swallowtails. Small Silver-spotted Skipper Epargyreus (a small brown butterfly with a large orange and white spot on each wing) landed on paddles and kept boaters company. I also spotted Common Buckeyes and Eastern Black Swallowtail butterflies with iridescent blue wings.

A Great Blue Heron and two black Cormorants escorted us to the take-out point at Berry Hill Road Bridge. An Osprey glided above us. Some paddlers spotted a two-foot turtle from the bridge while the boats were carried up from the river.

How fortunate we are to have this pristine slice of nature at the Virginia-North Carolina border. Thanks to all at DRBA for providing this experience.

Elsabé Dixon



Will Truslow answers questions during a lunch break

DRBA's 200th First Saturday Outing

DRBA's August 3 First Saturday Outing (FSO) was a milestone for the organization. It marked the 200th FSO to help paddlers and hikers enjoy the natural and cultural resources of the Dan River Basin. Introducing those new to outdoor adventures in a safe and coordinated group setting provides a valuable service by ensuring a memorable experience. For DRBA's repeat FSO participants, the outings are like a family mini-vacation, safe, fun and friendly. DRBA looks forward to many more FSOs, with the 300th out there on the horizon.

This paddle showcased the Dan River from Moratock Park in Danbury to the Snow Creek Access four and a half miles downstream. Thirty-seven paddlers in thirty-six craft enjoyed the gently flowing waters that carried us



along on a section of river steeped in history, as quiet as a wilderness and calming with gentle rapids and long smooth flows.

The put-in at Moratock Park featured an 1843 Iron Furnace, which made iron for the Confederacy until the dam that fed water to it was destroyed in 1865. Not far into the float were the remains of Ryerson's Fish Trap, a rare wooden slat trap from 1879 placed at the point of the vee to capture fish. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, branches of the Great Wagon Road forded the river on shallow shoals. A later means of crossing the river is marked by the steel skeleton of the 1918 Pitzer Truss

Bridge, just upstream of the take-out at Snow Creek Access.

Enjoying the outdoors paddling or hiking is as easy as 1, 2, 3! (1) Come to a DRBA FSO. (2) Paddle or hike with like-minded, friendly, helpful, adventurous people. (3) Repeat on each first Saturday year-round!

Wayne Kirkpatrick

Congratulations, DRBA, on 200 First Saturday Events!

DRBA Floats Dan from Milton to Leggett's Bottom

Dan River Basin Association's September 7 float trip from Milton to Leggett's Bottom was joy from bow to stern! My wife and I and a friend brought our own kayaks and joined three other friends who rented. Our ages and experience levels varied widely, and yet a very good time was had by all!

At first I was worried that the combined group of 40 boats would make for a lot of noise, chaos, and logistical messiness, but it was quite lovely, peaceful, and free flowing, above and below the hulls. Everyone and everything about it was so chill! I still can't get over the fact that Three Rivers Outfitters' transport of people and boats was free! What a wonderful world!

It was a bit of work at the takeout to get the boats up to the road, and back to the put-in parking lot, but the teamwork and patience from everyone made it all seem like no big deal. We hope to do more trips with DRBA and introduce some other friends to the scene!



This trestle carried the narrow-gauged Milton & Sutherlin line -- built to connect Milton with the Danville-Richmond line -- across the river.

Joyfully, Matt Aaronson and Laurie Van Camp

DRBA RLCs tour Sandy Ridge Equestrian Center

On September 17th, DRBA River Legacy Circle members enjoyed a grand tour of the Sandy River Equestrian Center in Axton, VA. We were exposed to everything I could want to know about horses. Never having even ridden a horse, I had no idea how much is involved. Nor did I know we had such an extensive horse operation so close to home.



The equestrian center, owned by Suzanne Lacy, is 230 acres of rolling hills, woodland trails, and open fields. The center was established in 1990 as a boarding, training, and lesson facility with an emphasis on events. To that end, it has a 10-stall boarder barn, a 13-stall lesson barn, a 4-stall training barn, 2-acre paddocks with run-in sheds, an indoor arena, 2 outdoor arenas, a small dressage area, and 2 cross-country fields with portable fences, water complex, bank complex, and ditches.

On our tour of the barns and arenas, I was amazed by a chalkboard that indicated the specialized diet for each horse boarded at the facility. We were treated to a hayride to the cross-country and dressage fields to watch equestrians demonstrate many of the riding styles. It was a pleasure to watch.



We returned from the hayride for food and to learn that in addition to clinics, camps, private riding lessons, and competition events, the center includes an Equine Management Training Center that offers a comprehensive certification program to become a professional groom.

Ellen Jessee



Join DRBA today!
www.danriver.org



Second Annual Art in Nature Auction

Just in time for Christmas shopping, the Art in Nature Auction returns this year with something for everyone. New and used jewelry, art, pottery, gift certificates and more can be found for prices you don't want to miss!

Watch your social media for this upcoming event. Bidding will open at 12:01pm on Monday, November 4, 2019 and will be accepted through Monday, November 11, 2019 at 9:00pm.

Don't miss this opportunity to shop from home for that 'just right' gift for you or a loved one. The auction is open to the public and there are no sign-on fees. Items won can be picked up at any of our offices or (for a small S&H fee), mailed to you. All proceeds benefit the Dan River Basin Association.



Memberships June 1, 2019 -- September 30, 2019

Sponsor Membership -

River Legacy Circle

Mike and Jane Haines
Kathleen Anderson and Peter Jonas
David and Karen Jones
Graham Park, III
Mrs. Lee Plummer Templeton

Municipality Membership

Henry County
Town of Halifax

Protector Membership

Shawn and Karen Gorman

Corporate Membership

Three Rivers Outfitters

Steward Membership

Larry and Brenda Baker
Harvey Boysen
Barry Dorsey
Bill and Cathy McLeod
Bill and Linda McConahey Mindful
Connections Coaching
Wid and Marie Painter
Latala Payne-Hodges
Michael and Phyllia Wenkstern

Family Membership

Jacky Miller and Phil Atkins
Joe and Alyson Best
Jeffrey and Jean M. Bullins

Ralph Horne and Kathryn Combs c/o

Lewis Veterinary Clinic
Rhonda Edwards
James Franklin, Jr.
Greg and Phyllis Gendron
Judith Jones
Gary Miller
Joseph and Gloria Montgomery
Lisa Perez and Family
Lonnie and Robin Smith
Estes Thompson
Charles Whittle Jr.
Paige and Frank Wiseman

Individual Membership

Jenny Clark
Nancy Clark
Toni & James Defiglia
Marie DeHart
Jennifer Edwards
Dan Elmer
Laura Gonzo
Connie and David Goode
K. Joanne Hill
Lillian Holland
Lawrence Hulett
Josephine Lackey
Carol Love
Corrie Tetterton
Thomas Tetterton
Eric and Lorraine Tichay
Patrick Touart
Janice Wilkerson
Robert Yeatts Jr.

The Dan River
Basin Association
works to protect
and promote the
Dan River Basin
through recreation,
education and
stewardship.

Help make a
difference in your
life, join DRBA
today.

Donations 6/01/2019 - 9/30/2019

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Benefactor Donation

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Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick
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Other Donation

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John and Marcia Strickland
Mrs. Lee Plummer Templeton
Keri Vernon Vernon Family Dairy
Fletcher & Ginger Waynick

Thank you for your continued support!



The Dan River Basin

December 7 First Saturday Outing: Hike at Iron Ore Belt Access,
Haw River State Park, NC

November 2 First Saturday Outing: Hike at Grassy Hill Natural Area,
Rocky Mount, VA

October 19 Third Saturday Outing: Hike at Smith River Headwaters;
covered dish at Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick's home,
Stuart, VA

October 5 First Saturday Outing: Paddle on Mayo Lake,
Person County, NC

Calendar of Events

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www.danriver.org