

Dan River Basin Association

CURRENTS

DANRIVER.ORG • Volume 18 • Issue 2 • Spring 2019



**SEVENTEEN YEARS OF DRBA
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY CELEBRATES HIGH ROCK FORD HISTORIC PARK
FSOs ARE BACK ON THE RIVER!**

Currents • Volume 18 • Issue 2

Dan River Basin Association

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATURES PAGE 3

PARTNERSHIPS. PAGES 4 - 5

EDUCATION. PAGE 6

RECREATION PAGE 7

CALENDAR PAGE 8

North Carolina Offices
 413 Church Street, Suite 401
 Eden, NC 27288-3242

Tiffany Haworth
 Executive Director
 336-627-6261
 thaworth@danriver.org

Robin Light
 Office/Accounting Manager
 336-627-6270
 rlight@danriver.org

371 NC Hwy 65
 Reidsville NC 27320

Jenny Edwards
 Rockingham County Program
 Manager
 336-339-6169
 jedwards@danriver.org

Virginia Offices
 3300 Kings Mountain Road
 P.O. Box 7
 Collinsville, VA 24078

Brian Williams
 Virginia Program Manager
 276-634-2545
 bwilliams@danriver.org

Krista Hodges
 Education Outreach Manager
 276-634-2592
 khodges@danriver.org

308 Craghead Street
 Danville, VA 24541
 315-209-5055

Currents Newsletter

Editor
 T Butler

Design/Production
 Betty Kirkpatrick

Publisher
 Rich Seybert, Felts Printing

Photo Credits:
 Gordon Allen
 Krista Hodges
 Betty Kirkpatrick
 Wayne Kirkpatrick
 Brian Williams

Join DRBA today!
To find out how, visit us at
www.danriver.org



Sonya Wolen, Danville, VA
 President
 Margaret Petty, Eden, NC
 Secretary

Wayne Kirkpatrick, Stuart, VA
 Vice President
 Shawn Gorman, Greensboro, NC
 Treasurer

Jennifer Atkins, Ringgold, VA
 Mark Bishopric, Eden, NC
 Tyler Carter, Martinsville, VA
 Rebecca Gibson, Westfield, NC
 Nate Hall, Yanceyville, NC

Paul Johnson, Martinsville, VA
 Wayne Knox, Martinsville, VA
 Cori Lindsay, Yanceyville, NC
 Tory Mabe, Danbury, NC

Laura Meder, Danville, VA
 Jim Tobin, Martinsville, VA
 Will Truslow, Greensboro, NC
 Fletcher Waynick, Reidsville, NC
 Sherri Wright, Danville, VA

FEATURES

DRBA CELEBRATES 17TH YEAR

Welcomed by a bountiful buffet and warm words from President Sonya Wolen, some 60 members and guests convened on March 2 at the Pittsylvania Community Center in Chatham, VA, for DRBA's Annual Celebration. In honor of exceptional service to DRBA, Paul Johnson was presented with the Spirit of the Dan River Basin Award, DRBA's highest award, and Nancy White was named Volunteer of the Year. A charter board member, Johnson commented that he had seen "miracle after miracle" with DRBA.

Volunteers Tony McGee and the Merit Pit Bull Foundation received service awards. Corporate partnership awards went to Coca-Cola for assisting with DRBA's rain barrel project and Bridgestone Tire Co. for picking up and recycling tires that DRBA collects at cleanups.

Keynote speaker Mark Sabath, senior attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) in Charlottesville, gave an update on the U.S. Supreme Court's consideration of the lawsuit challenging Virginia's uranium mining ban. Virginia Uranium seeks to mine the 119-million-pound uranium deposit near Coles Hill in Pittsylvania County. SELC supports the state's ban on behalf of DRBA and others. The ruling will come no later than June. If the state loses, the case could be sent back to district court.

Treasurer Shawn Gorman reported that DRBA's costs fell 2 percent and its income from donations and contracted services rose in 2018. DRBA continues to seek new members, donors, and partnerships.

Three new board members were elected — Cori Lindsay, Will Truslow, and Tory Mabe. Among DRBA's successes last year were water quality monitoring; an updated master plan for rivers and trails in Martinsville/ Henry County; development of blueways, river access, hiking and biking trails; events, festivals, and cleanups; and educational programs that reached 4,000 students, including Trout in the Classroom, Streamside Trees in the Classroom, Green Schoolyard at Albert Harris Elementary, and rain barrel workshops. The High Rock Historic Park and River Access in Rockingham County will be unveiled on April 27.

DRBA Executive Director Tiffany Haworth gave the results of surveys on the need for and interest in outdoor recreation plans, water quality and forestry plans and outdoor classrooms. Programs for the coming year include One Less Straw, in which metal straws are being sold to replace plastic ones; Floating Lotus; Art in Nature Auction; and creation of an eco-business council.

After the meeting, 25 participants led by Dr. William Black and his wife, Mary Lee, toured sites in historic Chatham, including a funeral home museum and the Pittsylvania County Historical Museum.

Ginny Wray



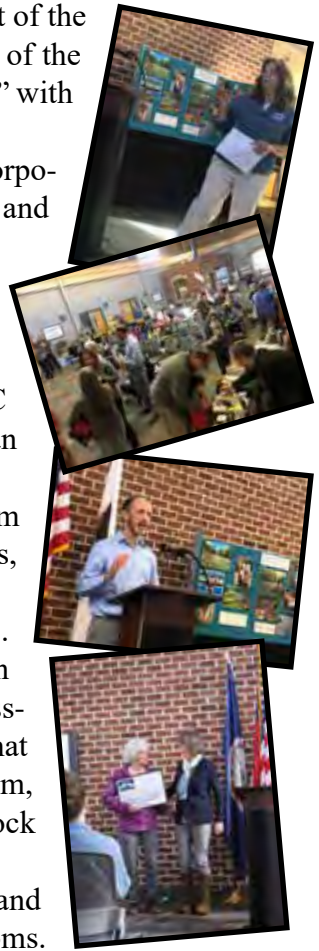
DRBA WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Directors on the DRBA Board are elected at the Annual Celebration of the Membership in March to serve three-year terms. This year two Board members rotated off: T Butler and Robin Davis, both of whom remain active DRBA members and serve on various committees.

Three nominees were elected to begin terms this year. Cori Lindsay resides in Caswell County, NC and is Director of the Economic Development/Small Business Center for Piedmont Community College's Caswell County campus. Tory Mabe of Stokes County, NC, is the Advertising, Marketing, & Tourism Coordinator for Stokes County Economic Development and Tourism. Dr. Will Truslow, recently retired from a solo Rheumatology practice in Greensboro, NC, is returning to the DRBA Board after a several-year hiatus, previously serving as President and chairing the Outings Committee.

DRBA welcomes these three outstanding individuals to the Board. They will serve the membership well.

Wayne Kirkpatrick



PARTNERSHIPS

DAN RIVER IMPLEMENTATION TEAM AND ST8

CROSSINGS INITIATIVE

The Dan River Implementation Team's regional marketing effort seems to be gaining some steam in its second year "on its own." Eighteen participants from 12 counties / cities throughout the region attended a recent meeting in Eden, with tourism officials well represented in the mix.

The group's ST8 Initiative funds a website with information about the basin's attractions, www.st8crossings.com, and the interactive map that locates trails, river accesses, cultural attractions, and much more, throughout the Dan River Basin www.danriver.org/interactive-map. Participation from all of the basin's counties and independent cities will ensure continuation of the efforts to market the region. For now, sufficient funds are on hand or have been committed to continue the web services into early 2020.

Monthly meetings of this DRBA affiliate are open to the public. A number of DRBA members participate in this effort, which originated from the Dan River Stakeholders Group, sponsored by Duke Energy, starting in September, 2014. Wayne Kirkpatrick and Mark Bishopric have participated since 2014.

Mark Bishopric

CHINQUA-PENN TRAIL RENOVATIONS PLANNED

2018 was hard on the Chinqua-Penn Trail, a DRBA affiliate. Heavy rainstorms, including hurricanes Florence and Michael, caused repeated washouts as the upper pond overflowed, unearthing the large drain installed to handle the flow. Hurricane Michael toppled huge trees, including dozens alongside and across the trail, requiring skills beyond the all-volunteer Friends of Chinqua-Penn Walking Trail.

But help arrived. NC Forest Service crews cut away tangles that blocked the trail, which is on the state's Upper Piedmont Research Station. The Reidsville Area Foundation (RAF) funded removal of overhanging trees, and carpenter Buck Purgason donated a short boardwalk to bridge the washout temporarily, so that the popular National Recreation Trail can remain open.



For the long term, RAF has awarded a sustainability grant to re-route the trail in two crucial areas. A new section of trail will bypass the washout, culminating in a bridge across the creek and a boardwalk over the

pond's overflow. Another section will be moved above a low area damaged by rushing floodwaters.

Two other projects will enhance the trail experience. The Rockingham County Naturalist Club is planting wildflowers and shrubs along the trail. Butterfly bushes, button bushes, and scores of native trilliums, bluebells, wild irises, and green-and-golds are in place, blooming as soon as conditions are right.

Near the trailhead are the ruins of Jeff and Betsy Penn's Stew Site where the Penns held Brunswick Stew parties in the 1930s. Built of local stone, the fire pit and chimney, tables, and benches are now tumbled piles. Only the Spring House stands, its pyramidal slate roof restored by the Friends. Restoration of the site will begin with the tables and benches. Matching money has come from the Town of Wentworth and My Three Sons Gourmet, and restoration fund donors of \$100 to \$2,000 will be honored on a plaque at the site. Outdoor Designs, Inc. will restore the tables and benches as soon as weather permits.

As fiscal agent for the trail, DRBA accepts donations from those who wish tax deductibility. For more information, contact T Butler, members@danriver.org or 336-349-5727.

T Butler

HIGH ROCK FORD HISTORIC PARK OPENS

APRIL 27

Join us in celebrating the opening of Rockingham County, NC's newest park at 10:00 on April 27th. A site of historical significance, the High Rock Ford Historic Park includes scenic views, a 1/4 mile trail, a paddling access on the Haw River, and interpretive signage. The park is located near the intersection of Kernodle and High Rock roads in southeastern Rockingham County.



A joint project of DRBA and the Museum and Archives of Rockingham County (MARC), the park was made possible by Duke Energy Water Resources Fund, Reidsville Area Foundation, and DRBA, with other support from RoundRock Design, Anglin Earth Works, and Merit Pit Bull Foundation.

Jenny Edwards



EVALUATING ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN THE BASIN

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has funded a project examining the distribution and value of ecosystem services in the Dan River and Lower Roanoke River basins. The term “ecosystem services” includes all benefits people obtain from ecosystems, including tangible things like food, drinking water, and raw materials, and intangibles, like cleaning the air and providing settings for recreation and aesthetic enjoyment.

Through research and data analysis, Key-Log Economics (KLE) is establishing which ecosystem services



are most important to stakeholders in the basin, and ways to protect those services. Environmental issues of greatest concern to the basin’s communities include uranium mining, coal ash disposal and storage, pollution from industry and agriculture, narrow

riparian buffers, and development. Highly-valued ecosystem services in the region include recreation (fishing, paddling, hiking, boating), drinking water, and species habitats.

DRBA’s Brian Williams and volunteers joined about 30 other basin stakeholders in the KLE meetings to offer input and to hear the study’s findings. Estimating the total value of ecosystem services currently provided by the basin gives a picture of the potential revenue that could be obtained if these services were monetized. At a minimum, we gain a fuller accounting of the value provided by the lands within the basin, which will be a valuable tool in master planning and quantifying promotional efforts of tourism.

PARTNERSHIPS IN PATRICK COUNTY

DRBA thrives on partnerships that leverage human resources to serve



the public and promote the DRBA mission in a greater capacity than either organization could do alone. This principle has been amply illustrated recently in Patrick County.

At Reynolds Homestead, DRBA reported to department

heads from VA Tech, describing engagements between DRBA and the Homestead. The part-

nerships include DRBA’s February FSO hike and tour; Streamside Trees in the Classroom, DRBA’s hands-on environmental education activity teaching the importance of water quality and human impact; coordinating 12 hikes and 12 walks annually for the College for Older Adults (www.reynoldshomestead.vt.edu/programs-events/college-older-adults/) and for the Homestead Hikers (www.reynoldshomestead.vt.edu/clubs-exchanges/hiking-club/); and assisting the AIR Shift program’s Trail HANDS project, which melds the arts and business to enhance a community. Large cement hand “busts” at five trails reflect the Heritage, Arts, Nature, Dreams, and Stories of each trail and the nearby community. Trail HANDS locations are on DRBA’s interactive map (www.danriver.org/interactive-map).

Since last July, 199 volunteers worked across the basin for over 600 hours, removing 20,000 pounds of litter. The basin-wide program will continue on our rivers throughout the warmer months. In Patrick County since January 1 of this year a Stuart Rotary Green Team project has removed over 1000 pounds of trash and 134 tires from Patrick County’s roads, streams, and trails. The Chamber and Tourism’s Pick Up Patrick County anti-litter campaign begins in March.

As part of their research on the uranium issue, the 10th grade English students of DRBA Board member Rebecca Gibson invited DRBA to speak. A DRBA volunteer presented a summary of known facts about the history of the effort to mine/mill the uranium and shared DRBA’s position on the related environmental issues—the on-site, in perpetuity storage of the mine/milling tailings.

Wayne Kirkpatrick

“It is worth the while to make a voyage up this stream, . . . only to see how much country there is in the rear of us; great hills, and a hundred brooks, and farm houses, and barns, and hay stacks, you never saw before”

**Henry David Thoreau,
A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers**

EDUCATION

ALBERT HARRIS ELEMENTARY STUDENTS SOLVE A FISHY MYSTERY

At their March 14 STEM night, Albert Harris Elementary students in DRBA's Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program faced a mystery. A fictional school sent word that their trout tank was in trouble, and they asked AHES students for help.



At six stations, the K-5 students and guests collected data and used their science, technology, engineering, and math skills to solve the problem. They tested ammonia and pH levels, water temperature, and smell, built nets to remove litter from the river, and made a trout lifecycle wheel.

Raising trout from eggs to fingerlings that they release into the Smith River helps the students learn about the environment and the importance of clean water—the major goals of TIC.

Nikita Hodge, a student at Albert Harris, solved the mystery when she observed that the water temperature was over 100°, far too hot for the trout, which need water between 52 and 55 degrees.

Says DRBA's Krista Hodges, "STEM Night was an exciting event to help organize for the families and students. Trout are an indicator species, so for the students to get hands-on experience, investigate what parameters directly affect the health of the trout, and tie that into the overall health of the river helps DRBA meet our goals of educating the students on clean water and taking care of the environment."

COAL ASH PANELS

For the past three years, the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute (VNLRI) has hosted a professional development program for leaders facing Virginia's most pressing natural resource issues to hone skills in conflict resolution and collaborative problem solving. The program is a collaboration of the UVA Institute for Environmental Negotiation, the VA Cooperative Extension at Virginia Tech, and four Virginia departments: Conservation and Recreation, Forestry, Environmental Quality, and Game & Inland Fisheries.

A key part of the program is a 4-member Coal Ash Panel, composed of two DRBA representatives, a VA Tech Extension specialist, and a Duke Energy manager. Questions answered by the panel members explored initial reactions/actions following the 2014 coal ash spill, opinions about the Dan River Basin Stakeholder Team's formation, effectiveness and ongoing role since the spill, and observations to share with the VNLRI Fellows.

The three-panel series has served DRBA well in reflecting on the events related to the spill, in being diligent regarding potential environmental threats to the basin, and in the value of building partnerships to leverage resources, especially human/other organizations' resources, to effectively protect the basin from environmental threats. Wayne Kirkpatrick



From our Executive Director.....

I'm not sure where the month of March has gone...but Spring is here! New beginnings and the promise of warmer air, longer daylight and vibrant color sprouting up everywhere. Although DRBA works year-round protecting our natural resources, the Spring season is when the implementation of outdoor projects begins. We'll keep you informed as we complete new places for you to explore and experience the regenerative power of being in nature. Make sure you are in the loop: sign-up for DRBA's e-news!

Tiffany Haworth

RECREATION

HIGH ROCK FORD PARK IN JANUARY

What a treat, not only to see the new river access, the furthest upstream on the Haw River, but to walk the beautiful new trail with historian Lindley Butler. Dr. Butler gave our group of 16 a glimpse of what it was like to be a soldier at the scene of the crossing at High Rock Ford and the background information of what was happening at the time. What an important place and time on our way to becoming a country. For a few moments we were there, imagining what it must have felt like to be a young man, fording the river in the freezing temperatures, wet and cold and marching to battle at Guilford Courthouse.

What a great way to learn about history, at the scene. What a peaceful scene on our January hike, what a terrible time before. A history trail and a river access are definite assets to this community and to our state. And both serve as an excellent example of how DRBA pulls so many people and resources together to achieve a goal. Thank you Lindley Butler for the best history lesson I have ever had and thank you DRBA and MARC for a great trail and river access. I hope to see more of this type of cooperation as this trail expands in the future. Susan Lassiter

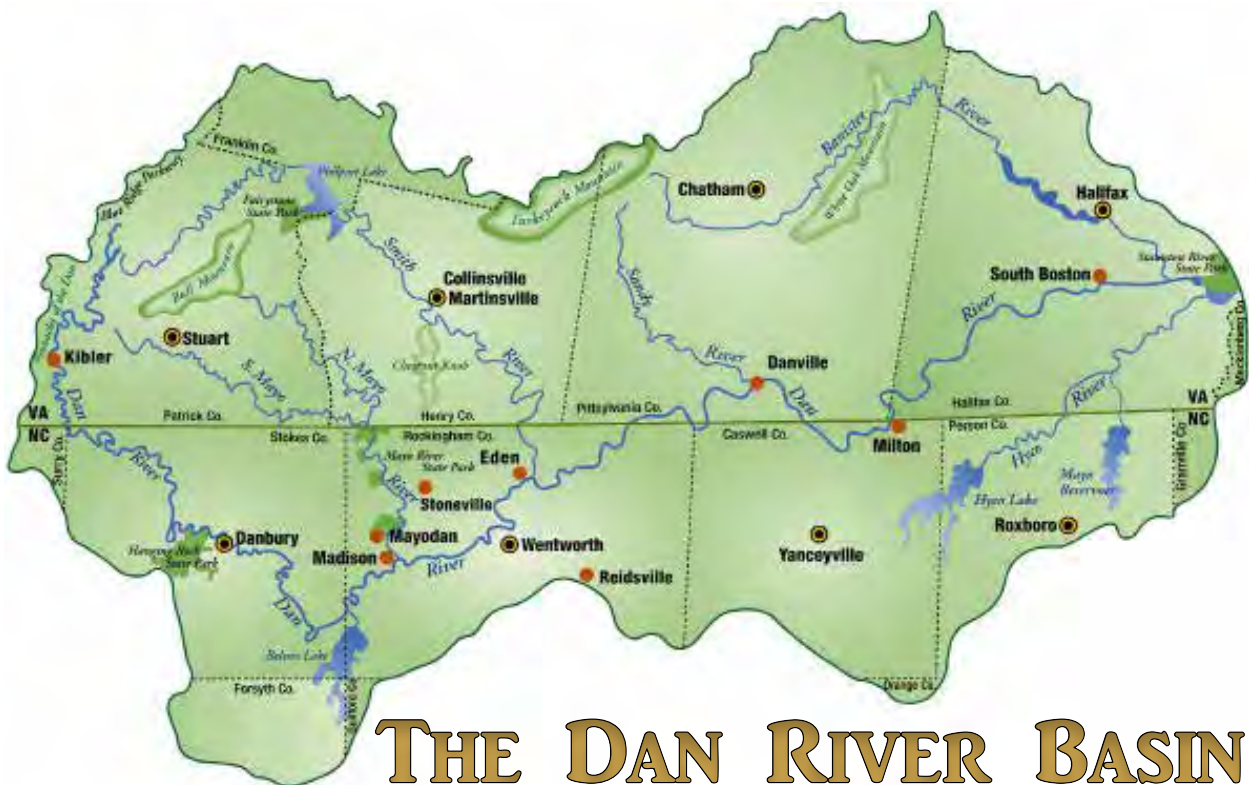
FEBRUARY 3 FSO – REYNOLDS HOMESTEAD FORESTRY AND HISTORIC HOME TOUR

Continuing the biennial tradition begun in 2009, DRBA's February First Saturday Outing brought 30 people to the Reynolds Homestead in Critz, VA. Forestry Superintendent Kyle Peer led the group as he explained the ongoing studies of Loblolly Pine trees and stream crossings and related information about the facility and ongoing research.

Reynolds Homestead staff member Beth Ford guided two groups through an afternoon tour of the 1843 Reynolds Home, the oldest brick house in Patrick County.



Like the five previous visits, this sixth FSO at Reynolds Homestead was interesting, informative, and fun. Wayne Kirkpatrick



THE DAN RIVER BASIN

UPCOMING EVENTS.

APRIL 6 -- FSO: FLOAT THE DAN RIVER FROM US 311 BRIDGE IN STOKES COUNTY TO PINE HALL ROAD BRIDGE

APRIL 25 -- CONSTRUCT YOUR OWN RAIN BARREL - DANVILLE WORKSHOP

APRIL 27 -- HISTORIC HIGH ROCK RIVER ACCESS & TRAIL RIBBON CUTTING

MAY 4 -- FSO: MAYO RIVER PADDLE FROM MAYO BEACH TO ROUTE 770 IN ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

MAY 23 -- CONSTRUCT YOUR OWN RAIN BARREL - GREENSBORO WORKSHOP

JUNE 1 -- FSO: PADDLE DAN RIVER, DRAPER ACCESS TO BERRY HILL

FOR MORE INFORMATION CHECK DRBA'S E-NEWSLETTER OR VISIT WWW.DANRIVER.ORG

DAN RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION
413 Church Street, Suite 401
Eden, NC 27288-3242



www.danriver.org