



Dan River Basin Association

CURRENTS

DANRIVER.ORG • VOLUME 18, ISSUE 3 • Summer 2019

DRBA CELEBRATES
PARTNERSHIPS • GROWTH • STEWARDSHIP

Currents • Volume 18 • Issue 3

Dan River Basin Association

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATURES PAGE 3 - 4

MEMBERSHIPS PAGE 5 - 6

STEWARDSHIP PAGE 7

PARTNERSHIPS. PAGES 8

RECREATION PAGE 8 - 9

CALENDAR PAGE 10

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:
Joe Dexter
Jenny Edwards
Tiffany Haworth
Krista Hodges
Betty Kirkpatrick

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



DRBA Board of Directors

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| Sonya Wolen, Danville, VA President | Wayne Kirkpatrick, Stuart, VA Vice President | |
| Margaret Petty, Eden, NC Secretary | 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 |



High Rock Ford Historic Park Ribbon Cutting

On April 27, more than 30 people gathered at historic High Rock Ford to celebrate the opening of Rockingham County's newest park! High Rock Ford Historic Park includes scenic views, a ¼-mile trail, a paddling access on the Haw River, and historical signage. The access is the first in Rockingham County on the Haw River, making all four rivers in the county available to paddlers, and joining Rockingham County to the multi-county Haw River Paddle Trail.

Preservation and interpretation of the site had been the long-time vision of DRBA founder, North Carolina historian Dr. Lindley Butler. High Rock Ford was the location of the county's first gristmill; an army campsite during the War of the Regulation; and a rendezvous for American Revolutionary soldiers prior to the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Historical information about the site was provided by Dr. Butler and Rockingham County Historian Bob Carter.

In addition to DRBA, project partners and supporters are The Museum and Archives of Rockingham County, Duke Energy Water Resources Fund, Reidsville Area Foundation, Lowes Home Improvement, Rockingham County Zoning, RoundRock Design, Anglin Earthworks, and Merit Pit Bull Foundation.

The trail and river access are open from dawn to dusk.

Jenny Edwards

New Acquisition for the Mayo River State Park

After many years of hoping, the jewel of the Mayo River, known as the Upper Tract, will soon become part of the Mayo River State Park (MRSP). The 63 acres of land includes the Boiling Hole, the S-curve rapids and Mayo Beach, popular for sun bathing. Upstream of Anglin Mill Bridge is the Stair Steps, a series of rock shelves and a beautifully preserved Native American fish trap. This 1½-mile section of the Mayo River is truly spectacular.

Piedmont Land Conservancy negotiated a price with the owners this spring after a long and complicated title search and the settlement of several estates. Duke Energy partnered with PLC to buy this land, which PLC will now donate to the MRSP.

The 320-acre Lower Tract was transferred to the MRSP in 2017. Both tracts were originally purchased with the intention of building a dam to supply water to Greensboro. Now, the river will remain in its pristine state and will be enjoyed for swimming, kayaking, and relaxing.

Will Truslow



Mountain Bike Race

More than 3,000 student athletes, coaches, and family members came to the Mayodan Mountain Bike Trail at Farris Memorial Park in May to participate in North Carolina National Interscholastic Cycling Association races. The Town of Mayodan, Rockingham County Tourism, and DRBA provided a warm welcome to the



Photography: Joe Dexter

racers, and local non-profit vendors were on hand to provide food and beverages. (The non-profits generated more than \$3,000 in sales.) The trail at Farris Memorial Park was designed and constructed by landscape architect Tony McGee, and it is that very design and layout that makes the venue so popular with mountain bikers, from the casual rider to the competing athlete. The trail was made possible by grants from Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, REI, Reidsville Area Foundation, and NC State Trails. More than 200 volunteers with Duke Energy provided the hand-finishing work on the trail.

The Mayodan Mountain Bike Trail is approximately 3.5 miles in length and is open to cyclists and hikers from dawn to dusk (unless heavy rains have closed the trail). Another mile of trail is slated to open in the fall of 2019.

Jenny Edwards

RLC Members Tour High Rock Farm

DRBA held a River Legacy Circle Event at High Rock Farm near Gibsonville, NC on Saturday, May 18. Twenty-two members and guests joined guides Tamara and Whitney Watson and T and Lindley Butler as they led the group on a memorable tour of the historic plantation, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as well as Preservation North Carolina.

The original home, built by John McCain in 1807, at one time served as a stage coach stop and housed a tavern and a post office. The current owner, Richard Teague, has maintained many original aspects of the three-story Federal style brick dwelling.

More than a century ago nearly 4 billion American chestnut trees were growing in eastern North America. Averaging five feet in diameter and up to 100 feet tall, it was considered the finest chestnut in the world until

a blight in the first half of the 20th century nearly destroyed them all. In 1991, Richard Teague planted his first chestnut tree, a variety which is a cross between the American and Chinese chestnut and is resistant to blight. The trees bloom three times a season on catkins—flowering spikes which are pollinated by the wind.

Now High Rock Farm stands as the largest working and producing chestnut orchard in the mid-Atlantic with over 500 chestnut trees and 400 pecan trees. The chestnut orchard produces 26,000 pounds of chestnuts each year. The harvest begins in September and October and culminates with a festival in early November.

The forty-five-acre farm is open for tours by appointment and its products—chestnuts, gluten-free chestnut flour, pecans, and apple, blueberry, and white sweet wines—can be found at co-ops and markets throughout North Carolina.

Margaret Petty



Green Schoolyard Planting Days

Students at Albert Harris Elementary, DRBA staff and volunteers planted their pollinator plants and milkweed before school let out for the summer. It was a wonderful couple of planting days! The students were so happy to be a part of the Green Schoolyard Project and had so many wonderful questions.

A special thank-you to DRBA member and volunteer, Lee Jarrett, for spending several hours helping with the planting and mulching. The teacher, Ms. Witt, and I are looking forward to completing the Green Schoolyard project this fall and having a ribbon cutting!

Krista Hodges



Memberships and Donations
December 1, 2018 -- May 31, 2019

Sponsor - River Legacy Circle

Mark and Mary Hill Bishopric
Lindley and T Butler
Tyler and Ashley Carter
Allison Gentry
Joe and Ellen Jessee
Mervyn and Virginia King
Betty Kirkpatrick
Wayne Kirkpatrick
Edwin and Alice Penn
Jim and Theresa Tobin
Sherri Wright

Benefactor

James Frith, Jr
Dan and Beth Mosca
Tom and Robin Taylor
Sharon Olson

Protector

Marcus and Sarah Brinks
Tom and Gloria Butler
Tiffany Haworth

**Corporate - Small Business
Organization**

Carolina Canoe Club
Spray Mercantile, LLC

Steward

Rex and Judy Rouse
Jacky Miller and Phil Atkins
Nancy Bell
Stanley and June Bowles
Ken and Luann Bridle
Peyton and James Cherry
Lucy Davis
Margaret Gurley and Tom
Edmonds
Ted and Helen Jane Hodges
Dwight and Martha Hopkins
Jill Carraway and Debora Horning
Lenzie and Jean Kinyon
Susan Lassiter
Scott and Liz Luking
Monty and Becky Mills

Henry and Nancy Moore
William and Susan Moore
Alan and Sharon Neely
Glen and Gwen Nergart
Linda and Coy M Park Jr
Hollis and Karl Stauber
Kim and John Steffan
Sam and Lea Thompson
Fletcher and Ginger Waynick
Gilbert and Sonya Wolen
Terry Wood
Homer Wright

Family

Audrey and John Buck, Jr
Robert Burris
Luanne Cherochak
David and Nancy Clark
Kathryn and Stanley Converse
Andy Sue Allen and Joel Deaton
Alice and Lee Dodson
Thomas Emory
Carl and Bee Espy
Kevin Zelya and Amy Farinelli
Erin and John Ganey-Hill
Rebecca Gibson
Wayne and Lynn Hale
Lee Jarrett
Dean and Mary Lewis Johnston
Bruce and Angela King
Warren and Roseann Lintz
Mr. and Mrs. Danny Love, Jr
Paul Lowry
Robert Fried and Martha McCarty
David and Traci Morton
Gwen Pruitt
Nancy White and Dennis Saver
David and Karon Tucker
Lisa and Clark Tyson

Individual

Gordon Allen
Gregory Arens
Jacky Miller and Phil Atkins
Kent Bryant
Arlyn and Susan Bunch

Bob Bushnell
Lucas Conkle
Jessica Driver
Keith Elliott
Steve Ferring
Betty Finney
Bob Futrell
Julie Glandt
Ed and Eileen Haight
Kelly Heath
Susan Henderson
Milton Hundley
K. Paul Johnson
Mary Mac Keith
Lenzie and Jean Kinyon
Donald Lampe
Lynn Lehman
Bob Mason
Mike Moore, Mike Moore
Media, LLC
Nancy Bell Westbury, Nancy's
Weddings and Events, LLC
Laura Meder, Outdoor
Designs, Inc.
Jo Proia
Gwen Pruitt
Julia Pyron
Dennis Reeves
Angie Stallings
Jude Swanson
Mike and Lusanna Vaughan
Lynn Wolf
Anne Woods
Mike and Ginny Wray

Donations

Sponsor

Lindley and T Butler
Home Trust Bank

Benefactor

James and Ursula Allen
Lindley and T Butler
Friends of Philpott
Mervyn and Virginia King

Memberships and Donations

(continued)

December 1, 2018 -- May 31, 2019

Protector

Margaret Petty and Hugh Citty
Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick
George Sweazey

Steward

Lucy Davis
Karl and Deborah Fields
Allison Gentry
Mike and Jane Haines
Gail Howland
Joe and Ellen Jessee
Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick
James and Kara Kirkpatrick
Lane and Mrs. Louise Miller
Edwin and Alice Penn
James and Florence Putnam
Spray Mercantile, LLC
Jim and Theresa Tobin
Ward Triche
Tammy Shelton Womens League
of Eden
Sherri Wright
Robert Yeatts, Jr.

Other

Nancy Bell
Lindley and T Butler
Rachel Christensen and Will Butler
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Fontaine Ruritan Club, Inc.
Julie Glandt
Walter Miller, Jr.
Don Moss, Jr
R Gilbert and Sonya Wolen
Anonymous - AmazonSmile
Sharon Olson
Melanie Barrow
Tim Goetz, The Greensboro
Montessori School
Anonymous Cash Donations
from DRBA Board of Directors
Pam Cundiff
Andy, Sue, Allen, and Joel Deaton
Joanne Hill
Tiffany Jones
Marianne Aiken
Fletcher and Ginger Waynick
Lindsey Alridge Chinni

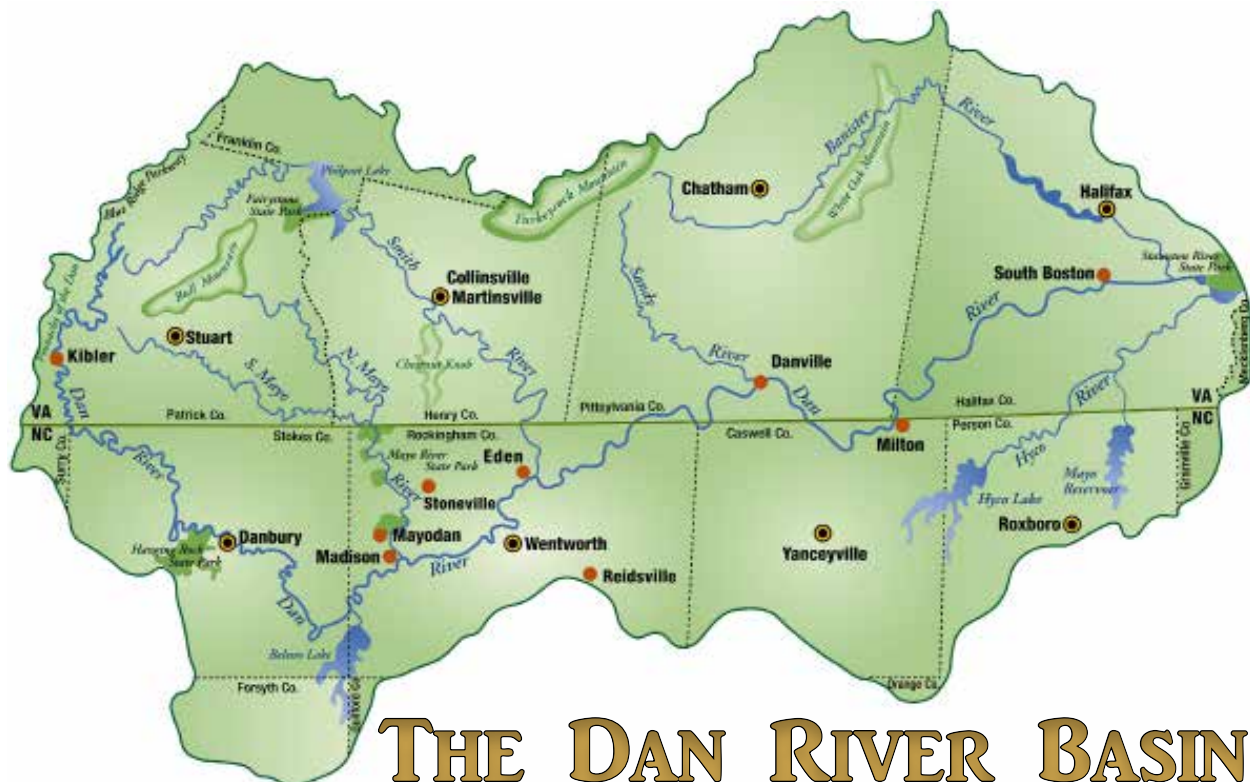
Anonymous - Network for Good
Tiffany Haworth
Brian Williams

Donations for Chinqua Penn Walking Trail

Lindley and T Butler
Tom and Gloria Butler
Stephen and Patricia Crist
Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick
Terri Lea
Mr. and Mrs. Danny Love, Jr
Sam Lindsey, Straders Shoe Store
Mrs. Lee Plummer Templeton



Thank you for your Support



THE DAN RIVER BASIN

Virginia's Uranium Mining Ban Upheld by Supreme Court

After uranium was discovered in Pittsylvania County in the 1970s, the Virginia General Assembly banned uranium mining in the state. Since that time, the ban has served to protect Virginia's waterways and keep them safe.

In 2015, Virginia Uranium, Inc. (VUI), a Virginia-owned, Virginia-managed company formed to mine and mill the deposit, sued Virginia arguing that the state can regulate only uranium mining, not milling and waste handling. Federal courts upheld Virginia's ban in 2015 and 2017.

VUI later appealed to the US Supreme Court and on June 17, 2019, the Supreme Court agreed that the Commonwealth of Virginia has the right to uphold the ban and safeguard our region. DRBA is proud of the work it has done to help assure this result and will continue to be proactive with partners across the region to support these efforts.



Maintenance on Rock Ridge Trail at Beaver Creek Reservoir

The Rock Ridge Trail, part of the Beaver Creek (Martinsville) Reservoir Trail System, experienced considerable damage during the 2018 storms and was in desperate need of maintenance. So a joint group of Master Naturalists and DRBA staff and volunteers spent two days chain sawing dead and downed trees, blowing leaves from the trail, and re-routing a portion of the trail that had been destroyed when the City built a road to access the dam for repairs.



Kudos for a job well done go to Eric Tichay, Ivan Hiatt, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Paul May, Bill Moorefield, DRBA Program Manager Brian Williams, Joe Jessee, and yours truly, Ellen Jessee.

Completed in 2012 in partnership with DRBA, Harvest Foundation, City of Martinsville, and The Lester Group, the Rock Ridge Trail is Phase II of the two-part trail system project. The first phase, the Patrick Henry Community College Loop Trail, located across the lake near the Frith Building parking lot, opened in 2011.

The Rock Ridge Trailhead is off Boat Ramp Road near the picnic shelter on the public access side of the reservoir. Beginning at the kiosk, the trail winds

through hardwood forest and numerous rock outcroppings down to the lakeshore, then loops back to the kiosk for a total of 1.2 miles. An out-and-back part begins across the road from the kiosk and continues down the hillside to follow the lakeshore.

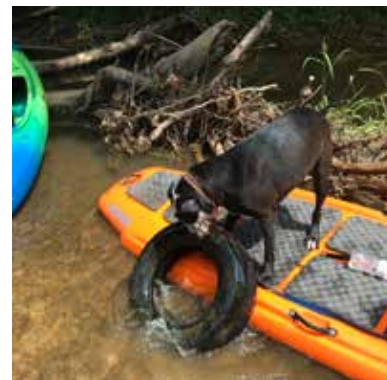
According to the recently approved Rivers and Trails Recreational Plan for Martinsville/Henry County, a proposed Beaver Creek Reservoir Lakeshore Trail of over 12 miles would connect the existing trails and circumnavigate the lakeshore at Beaver Creek Reservoir.

Ellen Jessee

Summer River Cleanups are Gearing Up!

DRBA is gearing up to get out on our local rivers for cleanups! Every year, thanks to volunteers, we remove several tons of debris and tires from local waterways.

If your civic or church group would like to sponsor a cleanup, contact DRBA at (336) 627-6270. Jenny Edwards



Rufus, along with owner Mike Ruffin, helps clean up the rivers and streams.

Be a part of something GREAT!
Join DRBA today!
www.danriver.org

DRBA at REI

On Saturday, July 27, at the REI Greensboro store, DRBA staff will share information about best places for full- and half-day trips on the Dan, Smith, and Mayo rivers. As a participant you'll see how to customize river trips for families with children, novices, or intermediate paddlers. You'll hear the best places to access the river, whom to contact to rent boats or arrange for shuttle, what to look for on the river—from ancient Native American fish weirs to wildlife, such as bald eagles, herons, and more. You'll leave the presentation with a Blueway guide and confidence in knowledge of where the river trips are located; what to expect on the river; and how to contact local outfitters for boat rentals, shuttles, and information on river conditions. To register for the event, visit: <https://www.rei.com/events> Jenny Edwards

Kid's Fishing Day on Mayo River

DRBA partnered with VDGIF, the Patrick County Soil and Water Conservation Society, Falling Creek Hunt Club and Smith River Trout Unlimited to host the first annual **Kid's Fishing Day** on the Mayo River. VDGIF stocked the river with Rainbow Trout along the lower portion of the Mayo River Rail Trail. 62 youth were accompanied by enough parents and grandparents to total 175 people having a blast catching trout. Patrick Springs BSA Troop 69 provided lunch/snacks as a fundraiser.

Prizes and trophies awarded to several youth included an LL Bean fly rod set (longest fish), a youth fishing outfit (shortest fish), a teddy bear (just cuz) and DRBA whistles. The smiles were longer than any of the fish and squeals and laughter erupted all along the Mayo as kids reveled in the outdoors.

Wayne Kirkpatrick



A Message from the Executive Director

Summer is here! I swear I blinked in January and it was June. Time speeds by, with so many responsibilities and to-do lists cluttering up my days. Thank goodness the summer heat slows us all down, forcing us to find creative ways to chill out and make time for a tall, cold glass of lemonade. Most people think the beach is the place to go for summer vacation. But, I have an alternative to the crowds, devastating UV rays and overpriced ice cream... stay here and explore the many attractions in the Dan River Basin. Enjoying a shady stroll on a nature trail or meandering down our cool rivers in a kayak or canoe are just two of the many options. You'll keep your sanity, save your money, downsize your urban footprint... and you'll help support your local outdoor recreation economy. I can't think of a better way to forget the chores and enjoy this summer!

Tiffany Haworth

Recreation

April 6 FSO, Dan River: US 311 Bridge to Pine Hall Bridge

Editor's Note: Trip coordinator Will Truslow reported, "We had 15 people and 12 boats, great weather, mostly clear water despite the recent rain, and lots of mud on the farm roads where we put in. Very good trip and got a first time paddler down the river."

Sydney Peer, Age 12, described the outing from her perspective:

I really liked the trip and everyone there was really nice. The water was fast moving, and the view was amazing! Even though the water was fast I think that this trip would be really good for beginners, like someone that is trying to get a feel for their new canoe or kayak.

Everyone was looking out for each other, just in case you did flip over. I got to meet new people and I learned a few things, like how to park a canoe in an eddy. All around it was an awesome trip.



May 4 First Saturday Outing on the Mayo River

When twenty paddlers reached Mayo Beach for DRBA's May 4 outing, Mayo River State Park (MRSP) Superintendent Keith Martin welcomed us to share news that the access area, the beach and much of the adjacent land is being acquired by NC State Parks to become part of MRSP. What a great way to start the six-mile trip to the NC 770 Bridge, another soon-to-be public access for MRSP!

Mark Bishopric, Jeff Johnston, and Wayne Kirkpatrick helped coordinate the trip. After shuttling our cars to the takeout and returning on Three Rivers Outfitters' bus, we all launched our boats with Wayne's assistance. With ages from 13 to 70+, our paddlers for the day came from at least five different counties, inside and outside of the Dan River Basin. A few FSO regulars were visiting the Mayo for the first time and were inspired by the river's beauty. We enjoyed above average water levels that were rising slightly due to modest upriver rain. At least seven paddlers were new to DRBA's FSOs, and some were experiencing their first river paddle.



After a leisurely three miles on the river, counting butterflies, debating what flowers were what and asking, "was that an osprey or an eagle?", the group beached for lunch and a swim. After lunch, the 17 kayaks, 2 canoes and 1 paddleboard continued negotiating riffles and class one rapids as we meandered to the takeout, safely concluding our three-hour outing.

Some new young boaters learned how to pick a line through rapids, finding an occasional rock or shoal along the way, and we all enjoyed the sunny refreshing day, without rain. Thanks to all who helped and all who paddled for making this FSO a success. Look forward to seeing you next time on the water.

Mark Bishopric

June 1 FSO on Philpott Lake

June 1, 2019 is a date for my memory book...first time ever kayaking and being on Philpott Lake! Mary Jordan and I were invited by DRBA members Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick, who brought all the necessary gear along for us. A little bit anxious about this adventure, after traveling through beautiful parts of Henry County we showed up with nervous smiles and our lunch bags at the Twin Ridge Recreation Area. Mary's grandkids were waiting to see photos of their brave "Ganny" kayaking, so we put on a brave front,

Wayne and Betty met us with welcoming hugs, making us feel more comfortable already. Betty gave us private lessons on both land and water; e.g., 3-Fs and 3-Ps, which was so helpful. Robin Davis welcomed the group of 26 prior to launch and shared highlights of Philpott Lake history, including fond childhood memories of coming to the lake with her grandmother. She explained that our destination was Deer Island, where we would break for lunch, and then return to Twin Ridge, completing a 3.5-mile paddle. Robin led the group in her slick pink kayak, with 24 kayaks, one paddle board, and one canoe following.

Mary took off like a duck takes to water, keeping up with the group and making friends. I, on the other hand, was the "cow's tail" all day and had a delightful time visiting with Wayne, who served as "sweep." The experienced paddlers were very kind and helpful, giving tidbits on how to paddle and reach a rhythm. The Lake was fairly quiet with only a few motor boats passing, allowing us to hear birds and the ripple of water caused by the smooth paddles. Lunch break was a time to chat with others and share more bits of advice.



As we finished the trip, Mary and I paddled up to the shore line where folks pitched in, helped us out of the kayaks, and moved them up on shore. It was a great experience. We are eager to plan another adventure with DRBA, perhaps not yet on a river. Thanks to DRBA and everyone who helped to make our June 1, 2019, on Philpott Lake a special first-time memory!

Lillian Holland

Up and Coming Events

July 6

**First Saturday Outing on the Dan River
Draper Access to Berry Hill Bridge**

July 20

**Third Saturday Clean-up on the Dan River
Lindsey Bridge Access to 704 Access**

August 3

**DRBA'S 200th FSO
Paddle Dan River from Moratock Park to
Snow Creek**

September 7

**First Saturday Outing on the Dan River
Milton to Leggett's Bottom**

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



www.danriver.org