



# CURRENTS

Dan River Basin Association

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JIM TOBIN HONORED AT DEDICATION  
PROJECT UPDATES IN EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP  
CONVERSATIONS ON OUTDOOR SAFETY REGULATIONS

# Currents i Volume 20 i Issue 3

## Dan River Basin Association

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Cover Photo: Lynn Wolf

**FUTURE SITE OF:**  
**Jim Tobin Monarch Waystation**

**This specialized habitat provides:**

**FOOD:** Native milkweed for Monarch caterpillars

**SHELTER:** Woody trees and shrubs protect Monarchs

**FOOD:** Nectar plants for Monarch adults and pollinators

**WATER:** Sand puddles provide moisture and minerals

**Habitat for Monarchs**  
 This habitat is a certified Monarch Waystation. Monarch Waystations are places that provide all of the resources necessary for Monarchs to produce successive generations and sustain their migration. Without milkweeds throughout their spring and summer breeding areas in North America, Monarchs would not be able to produce the successive generations that culminate in the migration each fall.

**Monarchs need our help!**  
 Milkweeds and nectar sources are declining due to development and widespread use of herbicides. Development in the U.S. is creating habitats for Monarchs and other species. As of August 2019, over 26,000 Waystation habitats have registered through Monarch Waystation.

**Monarch Butterfly Life Cycle**

Egg  
 Caterpillar  
 Chrysalis  
 Adult

In honor of Jim Tobin, who, like this garden, provides his resources to inspire future generations. Jim generously gives his time and treasure to the Virginia Museum of Natural History and the Dan River Basin Association, and served as the Executive Director of Piedmont Community Services for over 30 years. Jim's Waystation will not only educate youth about the value of pollinators, it will motivate them to strive for a brighter future.



### Jim Tobin Honored for Community Service

Several organizations came together recently to honor a man who has lived his life in service to others. The groundbreaking for the future site of the Jim Tobin Monarch Waystation was held at the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH). Jim Tobin has served as the Executive Director at Piedmont Community Services for 30 years, as a director for the Dan River Basin Association since 2018, and on the board of both the Virginia Museum of Natural History and the Harvest Foundation.

A Master Gardner, Jim is often first to volunteer, first to donate, and first to offer his enormous wealth of experience and expertise.

*It's a privilege to be a part of the project honoring this incredible person. Thank you Jim, this new Monarch Waystation at the Virginia Museum of Natural History will grow from the seeds of your inspiration.*

Brian Williams  
 Dan River Basin Association  
 Project Manager for Henry County and Martinsville City

Jim Tobin has been a mentor for many leaders in Martinsville-Henry County and many of those in attendance included Jim's family and friends from the organizations he has worked with in the community.

As the seasons allow, the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) and the VMNH will be completing a Certified Monarch Waystation on the museum's property. A Monarch Waystation is an intentionally-managed garden that provides food and habitat for the struggling Monarch

butterfly population. Specific plants must be included and maintained throughout the year.

Congratulations, Jim Tobin – you make a difference like no other.

Please refer to page 9 for photo identifications



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## EDUCATION

### *Education Update: Trees, Bees, and Bluebirds!*

As a participant in DRBA's Growing Kids and Trees program, Austin Harrell, a rising 5th grade student at Meadows of Dan Elementary, planted his Sawtooth Oak tree in April. Now that June has come, Austin is pleased to see how much his little tree has grown. Thanks to Austin for caring for his tree and sharing his photos.

Two new partners have contributed to the Green Schoolyard at Albert Harris Elementary in Martinsville. The Bee Conservancy has donated a native bee house that

will provide nesting holes for bees such as the Mason Bee, Leafcutter Bee, and Small Carpenter Bee to lay their eggs. The bees will also be great pollinators for the plants in the Monarch Waystation and the vegetable garden.

The Virginia Bluebird Society has given a Bluebird House with a camera, pictured here as DRBA volunteer, Jarod Hodges, installed them in the Green Schoolyard. In partnership with Martinsville City Public Schools, a nest cam set up inside the birdhouse will enable the students to watch the nest live stream while they are having lunch in the cafeteria. The students will also monitor the house for bluebird eggs.

Krista Hodges



### *Henry and Ferrum Elementary ROOTS Camp*

Students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade from Ferrum Elementary and Henry Elementary in Franklin County learned about Local Roots during their summer school session. One of the days was a "Water Day" at Jamison Mill park on Philpott Lake. The day was coordinated to include macroinvertebrates by DRBA, Water Safety from Philpott Lake Park Rangers, and Intro to Canoeing from Franklin County Parks and Recreation.

DRBA staff, Krista Hodges, Education Manager, and Anna Wheeler, Recreation Asset Coordinator, coached the students about macroinvertebrates that were found in Nicholas Creek. The students were introduced to live macroinvertebrates with the favorite "Tub of Bugs" presentation. They also investigated preserved specimens and visited the creek side to collect aquatic insects and crustaceans out of a kick net. Students completed the session with DRBA through a food web activity where they moved through the different trophic levels and acted out as a leaf, a stonefly, a brook trout, and a heron.

"It was a perfect summer day to be outside in nature and learning, said Krista Hodges, Education Manager. "The students enjoyed seeing what macroinvertebrates were found in a creek in their own county and learning about their significance to the environment."

## New Trail Opens in Patrick County

The opening of Patrick County's newest trail was held Sunday, June 27, at 2:00 p.m. The Hidden Roads Trail in Meadows of Dan has been established through a Rotary International Grant initiated by Rick Cole, Stuart Rotary President 2019/2020. Matching funds from the Stuart Rotary Club and local donations have helped complete the project.

Located on property owned by Jeff Shelor and behind the Meadows of Dan Fire Department/Vesta Rescue Squad facility, the 0.4-mile natural surface trail features a gravel parking area, a kiosk, and interpretive signage. Trail users can enjoy an invigorating walk with views of rolling hills and occasional wildlife. During the spring and fall migrations, this is a bird watcher's paradise!



Rotary President Laura Clark welcomes visitors to the HRT



Kiosks along the trail serve to introduce hikers to the history, the wildlife, and the fauna of Meadows of Dan

The Stuart Rotary Club is indebted to many partners who helped to create this Hidden Roads gem—the Stuart Rotary Club membership, Jeff Shelor and the Shelor Family of Meadows of Dan, the Meadows of Dan Fire Department/Vesta Rescue Squad, DL Harrell Construction, Blair Clark, Brett Helms Landscaping, DRBA, the Patrick County Historical Society, One Family Productions, Nathan Harrell, the Homestead Hikers, PCHS Horticulture, and Jorge and Barbara Jo Newton at Village Trim.

The Hidden Roads Trail is available for non-motorized foot traffic from dawn to dusk, and leashed pets are welcome. For all concerned, we ask that hikers please respect the landscape, refrain from littering, and remove any errant litter present – thank you!

Wayne Kirkpatrick

## Update: Paw Park Opens Soon

The Paw Park at the Smith River Sports Complex in Axton, VA will open to the public in late July, 2021. This unique dog park features a fully-fenced, natural surface trail, with four dog playstations along the trail and places to sit and eat lunch. There is still work to be done, and volunteers interested in helping should contact Tiffany Haworth at [thaworth@danriver.org](mailto:thaworth@danriver.org).



A membership from the Martinsville/Henry County SPCA will be required for use of the Paw Park. Beginning on July 23, 2021, you may apply for a membership by 1) filling out and returning a Registration Form, 2) providing your dog's license, and 3) showing proof of current rabies vaccination. The Paw Park Registration Form will be available at [mhcsPCA.org](http://mhcsPCA.org) or at 132 Joseph Martin Highway, Martinsville, VA 24112.



Upon confirmation, dog parents will be issued a personal security code for the electronic lock at the main gate of the park. The membership is January – December, regardless of when you register during the year and must be renewed every year on, or after, January 1. Paw Park Membership for 2021 will be offered at no cost.

**Would you like to be a DRBA volunteer?**

**Contact us! ~ [www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org)**

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## Chinqua-Penn Trail's New Feature

Those who have visited the Chinqua-Penn Walking Trail over the past two years have observed several renovations to the trail.

Thanks to a generous sustainability grant from Reidsville Area Foundation, the eroded portions of the trail have been bypassed with new boardwalks and a new bridge to enable users to enjoy their circuit of the beautiful 1.6-mile loop in safety.

Another project is renovation of the stone tables and benches at the Stew Site, where Betsy and Jeff Penn entertained guests in the mid-20th century with Jeff's famous Brunswick Stew. More of the site will be restored as funds become available.



Recently, Friends of Chinqua-Penn Walking Trail placed three park benches along the trail that allow visitors to sit comfortably to rest, enjoy birds and other wildlife, or watch passersby. A special new feature is the gift from Reidsville Garden Club of a custom-made metal bench. Located in the shade at the head of Turkey Pond, the bench was designed, built, and installed by Matt Thompson, of Mattco Metal Works. It is ideally placed for cool contemplation of the birds, turtles, and changing surface of the pond.

T Butler

### *From the Executive Director*

*Our corner of the world is in full bloom, and DRBA is in full gear. I am still amazed, even after a decade of working at DRBA, just how big a positive impact a small group of concerned citizens can make.*

*Since January, DRBA has completed over twenty projects, including new and enhanced trails and river access construction, special focus group sessions emphasizing Black and Brown voices, educational programming for almost 1,000 students, and outdoor recreation master planning for partner municipalities. We will hold eight ribbon cuttings for new trails, work to open the first State Park in Henry County, VA, and begin renovating a major river access in Rockingham County, NC, by August of this year. By November we will hold over a dozen engagement events, such as Citizen Water Quality Monitoring Training, Rain Barrel Training, Lunch with DRBA, Clean Ups, and Trail Work Days.*

*We don't do this work alone. It would be impossible to complete it without you. We depend on your generosity in donating your time and treasure. The members of DRBA may be a small group of citizens, but we are a powerful group of concerned people who are committed to preserving our natural resources for our neighbors now and for future generations. Thank you!*

*Tiffany Haworth*

Grand Opening ceremonies at the Madison River Park / Lindsey Bridge Access. Thanks to all the partners that made this possible.

Now the endangered Roanoke Logperch can be repatriated upstream and boaters have a great “park and play” location. The town of Madison, with many unique shops, is also a great place to spend the day, paddling, tubing, fishing, and dining.



### River Legacy Circle Events

Members of DRBA’s River Legacy Circle (RLC) enjoyed two special invitations recently: first, a visit to the home of Peter Jonas and Kathleen Anderson in Meadows of Dan, Virginia, and second, to meet Gibby Waitzkins, featured artist at the Floyd Center for the Arts.

On a beautiful cool spring day, Peter and Kathleen welcomed 16 guests to their Pondview Guesthouse and shared the history of their move from the West Coast to Meadows of Dan. Guests then enjoyed a hike along established trails while learning about the growth of this 25-acre eco-friendly farm and lifestyle.



Gibby Waitzkins, a paper artist living and working in Floyd, provided a most interesting tour through the Hayloft Gallery where her work, *Paper – An Enduring Medium* was on display. Following the gallery tour, Waitzkins graciously invited the group to her personal studio where she demonstrated the process of papermaking based on traditional methods and natural, locally-sourced materials.

DRBA honors the RLC membership with four special events each year and will be looking forward to several other activities this year. If you are interested in becoming an

RLC member, please check out the membership page at [www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org).

***There’s an app for that!***

***Click to drop a raindrop anywhere in the contiguous United States and watch where it ends up. You’ll discover towns, cities, landmarks, and confluences along the way.***

***<https://river-runner.samlearner.com/>***

## The Dan River Basin Association Calls for a New Conversation on Outdoor Recreation Safety

For over nineteen years, The Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) has introduced our region to the astounding sights and sounds of nature. By providing and promoting outdoor recreation opportunities, DRBA has stewarded a sense of value for the unique and beautiful natural resources of our watershed.

*“No one knows the rivers and trails in our region better than DRBA. We have partnered with DRBA on almost all of our projects related to safety and outdoor recreation. The TDA will definitely be joining this conversation and is committed to working with DRBA to improve the outreach, and enhance the message, of outdoor recreational safety.”*

Robin Yount  
Director of the Tourism  
Development Authority

Anyone who has ever joined an outing with DRBA, whether on a river or a trail, knows that the safety of our guests is our number one priority. With paddle and hiking safety training, directional signage on bridges, and informational signage along trails and at river access points, DRBA has worked closely with municipalities and partners throughout the region to ensure the safety of those enjoying our natural resources. DRBA’s work toward outdoor recreational safety is an on-going goal within the organization, and every year DRBA has initiated and achieved new projects that help safeguard our citizens and visitors.

The recent tragic event on the Dan River highlights there is still work to be done. “Every year, thousands of people safely enjoy our local outdoor recreational assets because of the collaborative efforts of the organizations and municipalities in our region,” said Tiffany Haworth, DRBA’s Executive Director. “But one tragedy is too many. People and organizations from every

corner of the Dan River Basin are reaching out to us and sharing new ideas related to outdoor recreational safety. We want those voices to be heard.”

DRBA gathered these ideas and personally invited county managers, public safety staff, law enforcement, park and recreation staff and tourism directors from all 16 counties of the Dan River Basin to join a virtual meeting to share ideas and to learn from others about outdoor recreation safety. Over fifty participants joined the meeting on July 9th. Participants heard from Duke Energy, dam owners, outfitters, and public safety officials, about current regulations and policies, best practices and public feedback related to outdoor recreational safety. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources shared information about safety measures they are prioritizing in their state. Iowa has had the most deaths related to low head dams in the nation. Many of those present offered their ideas and strategies for reducing risk and improving the safety on our rivers and trails.

At the end of the meeting, DRBA encouraged the attendees to continue the conversation with users, recreational asset owners, and emergency responders in their own localities.

“DRBA is the expert when it comes to outdoor recreational assets and protecting the environment,” said

*“Like the rest of the Eden and Rockingham community, we are saddened by the tragic event that took place last week on the Dan River. We certainly want to participate in a community discussion on recreation and safety in and around the river,”*

Davis Montgomery  
Duke Energy  
District manager.

Cindy Adams, Tourism Director for the City of Eden. “We have worked with DRBA on many projects and we are committed to joining this conversation to ensure we



are doing all we can to keep people safe while visiting and enjoying all of the outdoor amenities we have in the City of Eden.” Representatives from all municipalities, businesses, outfitters and organizations in the Dan River Basin region who are interested in joining this conversation, please contact the Dan River Basin Association, [drba.nc@danriver.org](mailto:drba.nc@danriver.org) or (336) 627-6270.

The mission of the Dan River Basin Association is to promote and protect the natural and cultural resources of the Dan River basin through education, recreation, and stewardship. DRBA works to fulfill that mission by building river accesses and trails, educating people of all ages about protecting our natural resources, and protecting our water resources through water quality monitoring, cleanups and master planning. The Dan River basin is 3,300 square miles including sixteen counties throughout Virginia and North Carolina.

To learn more about how to stay safe outdoors, please visit DRBA’s website: <https://www.danriver.org/our-watershed/trails-and-river-info/trails-river-safety> or view a short webinar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qen4W7pPuLQ>

To learn more about DRBA’s impact and programs that protect and conserve our natural resources, visit [danriver.org](http://danriver.org).

Tiffany Haworth  
Executive Director  
Dan River Basin Association



*Page 3, clockwise from top left: Kiosk designed by Krista Hodges, Education Outreach Manager; Dan River Basin Association (DRBA); Joe Keiper, Executive Director, Virginia Museum of Natural History; Greg Preston, Executive Director, Piedmont Community Services; Brian Williams, Virginia Program Manager, DRBA with Roscoe Reynolds, past Senator with Virginia’s 20th District, and Hodges; Jim Tobin, Member, Board of Directors, DRBA with T and Lindley Butler, Founders DRBA; Williams with Terri and Jim Tobin; Hodges, Tiffany Haworth, Executive Director, DRBA with Jim Tobin; Jim Tobin and wife Terri.*

# FIRST SATURDAY OUTINGS

## April 3 Hike at Knight-Brown Nature Preserve

I recently had the opportunity to experience the trails at the Knight-Brown Nature Preserve, along with my husband, our 2-year-old son, our dog, and DRBA. Our family spends a lot of time outdoors, so we weren't sure what to expect.

We met the group, totaling 11 hikers, at the parking area in the early morning. It was a bit brisk, but we had dressed appropriately. Coordinator Will Truslow greeted us and told us that the plan was to hike all of the trails.

We started on the Beechwood Bottom Trail, a gradual descent through the forest to the creek. The trails were well established, but clean and well maintained. Several individuals in the group who were interested in the flora were very informative and named many species. The creek was quite beautiful, with several lovely small bridges crossing it.

We then completed the Creekside Trail. This aptly named trail followed the creek and eventually crossed it again. It was a stunning piece of trail. We were educated regarding the riparian areas that had been created/fortified to allow for amphibian habitat.

At this point, the group continued to the final trail. However, our son was past his nap time, so we had to leave early. It turns out we had underestimated the group. We were out for over an hour and a half and imagine the group finished over two hours.

We enjoyed the pace, the company, the scenery and the education. We definitely plan to partake in future activities and will be better prepared for our next First Saturday.

Raegan Stanley

## May 1 Paddle on Mayo Lake in Person County

When my wife and I were invited by Susan Long of Outdoor Afro to join her and her family to kayak at Mayo Lake, we didn't know what to expect. For me, it had been maybe over 10 years since I had been kayaking, and for my wife and daughter, this was their first time. Our day started pretty early, since we came from the Piedmont Triad Area and the drive was a little shy of 2 hours. Once we got there we were greeted by DRBA and Three Rivers Outfitters. They prepared us for an outing with safety tips, basic beginning kayaking techniques, and then we were off.

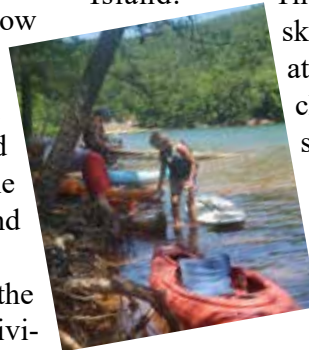


All 18 kayaks and 23 paddlers were led by Wayne Kirkpatrick. He made sure everyone stayed together and informed us of what to look for on the water. My wife, who doesn't swim, felt safe being with the group that has so much experience and was so welcoming to the newbies. This was a great exercise and we're looking at dates we can add another round to our schedule. As the owner of Cruise Control Marketing (<https://www.cruisecontrol-marketingonline.com>), a website design agency, it can be a bit challenging for us to have an outing that works well for all of our schedules. I would say and suggest that if you are considering doing this and haven't decided, you should definitely do it, you will not regret it or be disappointed.

Eddie Drew

## June 5, 2021 on Philpott Lake

DRBA participants enjoyed a 3.5-mile paddle on Philpott Lake for the June 5, 2021 First Saturday Outing. Led by DRBA member, Robin Davis, 31 paddlers in 29 boats and one paddleboard launched from Twin Ridge Marina on the Franklin County side of the lake to circumnavigate Deer Island.



The lake was busy with speed boats, water skiers, jet skis, and pontoon boats that created some wake waves to give even more character to the deep, clear, cool lake surface.

Stopping at the camping area on Deer Island, the group enjoyed a leisurely lunch on the shaded shoreline before continuing back to the marina. One highlight of the day was a film crew that

was recording participants' impressions of DRBA, as well as drone footage of the flotilla, for the DRBA social media postings.

One young paddler added her thoughts on the day:

*My name is Rosalyn*

*I like kayaking with my Grandma.*

*When we got close, my grandma untied and I paddled by myself. I did very good.*



*Editor's note: Rosalyn recently celebrated her 7th birthday and has been paddling Philpott waters since she was 4 years old. If she's not paddling the lake, she's swimming from the beaches. She has learned the importance of clean water from her Grandma and long-time DRBA member Robin Davis.*

*DRBA's future is here!*

**3/16/2021 – 6/15/2021  
Memberships**

**River Legacy Circle**

Mark & Mary Hill Bishopric  
Kathleen Anderson and Peter Jonas  
Edwin G. and Alice Penn III

**Benefactor Membership**

John and JoAndra Proia

**Protector Membership**

Tom and Robin Taylor

**Steward Membership**

Peter Adams and Martha  
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Debora Horning  
S & R Wolen Gilbert  
Dianne Starnes

**Family Membership**

Linda Bledsoe and Aubrey Light  
David and Supaporn Thies

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Jessica Driver  
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Elbert J. Mason  
Anne Moore-Sparks  
Maggie Richardson  
Jan Wiley  
Janice Wilkinson  
Lynn H. Wolf

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Amy Farinelli  
Tiffany Haworth  
Jarod and Krista Hodges

Joe and Ellen Jessee  
Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick  
Sharon Olson  
Allison Szuba  
Fletcher and Ginger Waynick

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Melanie Borrow  
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Elbert J. Mason  
Jim and Theresa Tobin  
Janice Wilkinson

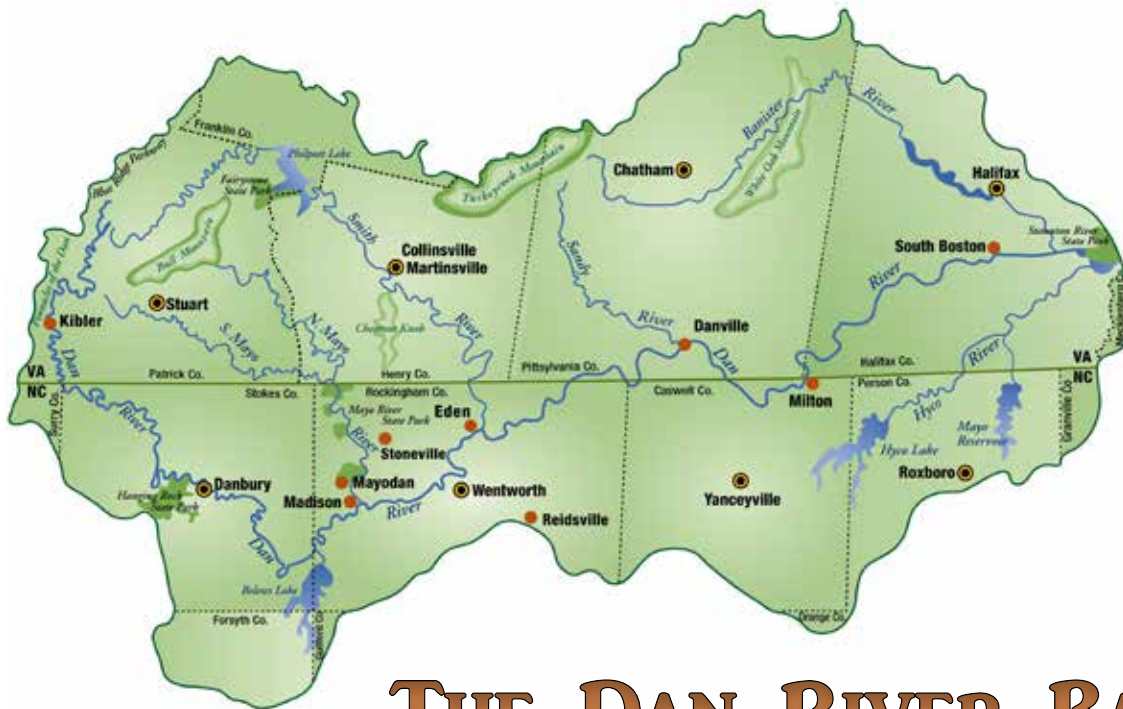
**Corporate & Organization  
Donations**

Duke Energy, Davis Montgomery  
Kroger  
McKesson  
Women's League of Eden

**Chinqua Penn Trail Donations**

Split Ends, Leah Roberts

**Join DRBA today!!**



**THE DAN RIVER BASIN**

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



[www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org)

## *Upcoming First Saturday Outings*

*July 3—Smart View Loop Hike*

*August 7—Reynolds Homestead Forestry Tour Hike*

*September 4—Gravelly Nature Preserve Hike*

\*All events are subject to change due to inclement weather or government guidelines. Please check with the Dan River Basin Association website or the trip coordinator before leaving home for any event.  
[www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org)