



Dan River Basin Association

CURRENTS

DANRIVER.ORG • Volume 22 • Issue 2 • Spring 2023

A Year in the Life. . . Fact Check 2022

Partnering with the Dan River State Paddle Trail

Join our Celebration!

Currents • Volume 22 • Issue 2

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Dan River Basin Association 2023 Board of Directors

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Greensboro, NC

Sonya Wolen
Danville, VA

Cover Photo: Joanne Hill

Something to Celebrate!

Mark Estes, DRBA's President of the Board of Directors welcomed fifty guests to the Annual Meeting of the Dan River Basin Association held virtually on March 4. A short review of 2022 by Tiffany Haworth, Executive Director, the election of new board members the Board, and a financial review of 2022 all-encompassing report of the organiza-

Haworth's comments highlighted environmental education, recreation, and construction of Monarch Waystations, the 100 youth in the City of Danville, the open-County and Belews Park in Rockingham, Meetings, continued uranium mining litiga-dozen threats to our waterways. More than programs, 12 miles of river were cleaned and litter and debris, more than 300 trees were and over 20 public events and workshops

Gorman noted that DRBA had a higher net increase in donations and new targeted pro-ported that DRBA spends 85% of its fund-to protect and preserve our natural and cultural and administration expenses.

Following the meeting, guests were invited to join Will Truslow on a hike at the Rockingham Community College in North Carolina. Over 60 people attended the 2.5-mile hike.



DRBA's efforts to carry out its mission of envi-stewardship work in the region. This included the Epic River Experience events that reached over ing of the VA Mayo River State Park in Henry NC, the regional Outdoor Safety Stakeholder tion, and DRBA's response to more than two 8,000 youth were reached through DRBA's EE monitored, six miles of trail were cleaned of planted along waterways as riparian buffers, were attended by staff and volunteers.

income in 2022 when compared to 2021. An grams served to offset lower grant income. He ing to support programs and activities designed resources and only 15% on facilities, fundraising,

Meet your New Board Members for 2023



Kathryn Converse is the former deputy program manager providing IT support to the US Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development, and currently serves her community as the co-ordinator for the Northern Stokes Food Pantry and as an advisor with the Stokes County Agency Second Harvest Food Bank of NW NC, vice president of the Francisco Ruritan Club, a member of DRBA and is training

to be a DRBA Citizen Water Quality Monitor.

B. Ray Jeffers grew up in Person County, NC where he operates the family's century farm purchased by his great - grandfather in 1919. Prior to being elected to the NC House of Representatives for District 9, Ray served for 12 years as a Person County Commissioner, was President of the N.C. Association of County Commissioners, and served as an executive board member of the National Association of Counties.



Bailey Stanley who is the first youth nominated for DRBA's Board of Directors is a Sophomore in Bengal Tech at Bassett High School. He has been a member of the National Society of Black Engineers since the 4th grade and serves on the Harvest Foundation Youth Board. Bailey feels he can contribute to DRBA by adding a youth's perspective on issues. Bailey loves everything outdoors, working with animals and helping with projects. Bailey hopes to become an Agricultural Engineer.



Tom Taylor is a retired actuary, an avid paddler, and an energetic hiker. He was a member of DRBA's first board of directors in 2002 and is eager to provide leadership again. He is the treasurer of the Sierra Club (Piedmont Plateau) and a member of numerous environmental and outdoor activity organizations. His interest is in both the protection and the widespread enjoyment of the Dan River and surrounding hiking trails.

Celebrating 21 years of Stewardship in the Basin

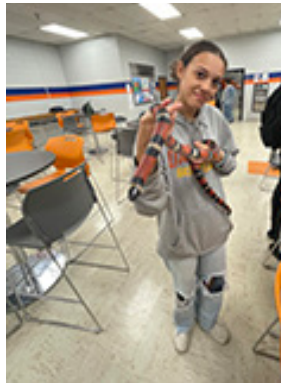
Oh, I Love snakes! Can I hold it? What a thrill that is to hear, and I get to hear it often when doing presentations for students in our “Snakes Alive” Program. Never underestimate the effect a live animal can have when used for education and my reptile presentation is just one of the many we offer in our education/outreach programs to enhance environmental awareness.

I have loved reptiles and amphibians all my life and I always have several species of snakes at home so it’s fulfilling for me to share them in our outreach programs. DRBA’s Education Outreach programs cover a variety of topics from water quality to outdoor recreation and every chance I get to utilize live animals, I make sure to include snakes. Trout in the Classroom and “Tub-o-Bugs” are both a great fit as well. We use snakes to help teach the importance of our natural resources and the protection of the environment, including all creatures great and small.

The best thing about using live animals is the immediate attention and focus from the group, especially when you utilize unique creatures like snakes. Everyone has a visceral reaction to snakes, either love, fascination, or fear. My job is to channel all those reactions into a positive outcome. Doing it safely for both animals and humans is key. I especially enjoy teaching others how to present snakes in a non-threatening way that will allow your audience to learn more or overcome an innate fear.

A fascinating aspect that I have observed over the years is the reaction from different age or gender groups. As a general rule, females are less likely to be afraid or apprehensive. In age-related reactions you can probably already guess that younger people have less fear and are more open to learning about animals. People that have had a bad experience, usually a result of childhood trauma from someone scaring them with a snake, can be harder to win over. It’s so important, in fact it’s the number one rule, never scare anyone with any animal and never force anyone to hold it or touch it. You can pay special attention to these folks by helping them get over the fear, one small step at a time. However, this is where you need some “people reading skills”. They have to go at their own pace and, if they don’t run away, I can usually get them a bit more comfortable than they were prior to this encounter. That’s why during full presentations, I always start with general info on snakes -- the posters, snake skins, and other items they can touch before I ever get a live snake out.

“Oh, I LOVE snakes, can I hold it?”



Another interesting observation is when I do programs with kids where parents are present as opposed to when it’s just kids and teachers in a classroom or outdoor setting. Invariably, when you pull out the first snake, you can watch the kids look to their parents to see their reactions. If a parent reacts positively, my job is easy. If a parent recoils or if he/she reacts negatively, then I’ve got my work cut out for me.

Here are some dos and don’ts when working with any live animal, especially snakes, in an audience.

Always make sure you prepare the audience before you open a box and pull out a snake. If you have gasps or screams, stop until you calm the people’s fears and explain the animal’s sensitivity to movement and noise.

Once you have your audience in a calm receptive state, you can begin the live animal part of the presentation. Talking while holding the animal lets it calm down and

allows the audience to get accustomed to the animal’s appearance and movement. While doing this, watch the people and recognize those who might be scared and more difficult to reach and those who are more receptive. You might encourage each of these types to work together during the program.

Always make sure you have control of the animal, especially the head. Even if you are sure of the animal’s disposition, anything with a mouth can bite, and even a normally calm animal may react differently when confronted by a loud or active crowd.

Keep the head away from people and let them touch the animal near the tail. Even those that may want to hold it, you still need to gauge how they react when they just touch the animal. You DO NOT just immediately hand over the animal to someone who claims to know what they are doing. You are likely to get a “dropped” animal -- ask me how I know! Even when you do your best to make a good judgment, sometimes you are wrong. Don’t take that chance, ease into letting folks hold the animal and always be prepared to catch it or take it back immediately.

Always keep in mind that no matter how many times you have done this, or how many times you have used the same animal, every presentation and every crowd is different, and just about anything can happen.

Continued on page 5

BUG DAZE at the VMNH

In January, DRBA board members Sonya Wolen and Jessica Driver along with program manager Brian Williams had a busy Saturday at the Virginia Museum of Natural History annual “Bug Daze” Festival.

We started setting up our display around 8:30 am and by the time they opened the doors at 10 am, there was already a long line of people waiting to get in. It was an incredibly busy day as we presented “Tub-O-Bugs” to a record crowd of over 1200 visitors. Our hands-on presentation was a huge hit and it seemed everyone wanted to hold the river bugs!

It’s always a wonderful experience to be able to share the importance of these critters and how they relate to water quality and DRBA’s mission of protecting our natural resources. The absence or presence of certain macroinvertebrates are indicators of water quality in our local waterways and when we find a large variety of bugs that are intolerant to pollution, it’s a good thing!



Candid Camera!

continued from page 4

Be prepared for the unexpected: animals pooping, animals having a “moody” day, people reacting differently than you predict, or temperature changes. Realize that the safety of both the animal and your audience must always be your priority..

Presenting with live animals is an exciting way to engage an audience and can be rewarding when you see the awareness and appreciation you have helped foster. You need to understand that this may be the first up-close experience someone has had with a snake or any other wild animal. Make sure it’s a positive experience for the audience, for the presenter, and for the animal.

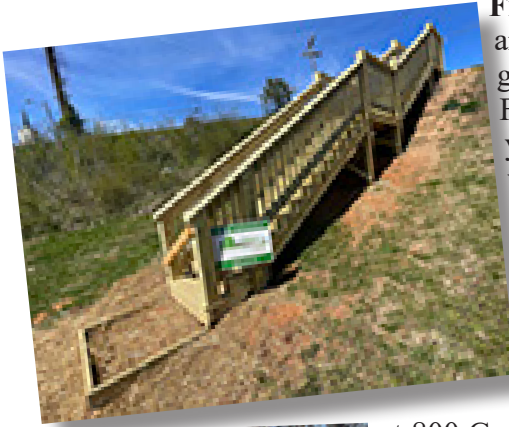
Brian Williams

Editor’s Note: Brian Williams has served as DRBA’s Virginia Program Manager for over 15 years. His dedication to our communities, to our rivers, and to the education of our youth knows no bounds.



Got projects? We do!

Currently, in Martinsville/Henry County, we have four projects either in progress or ready to start.



Fieldale Connector Steps: This connectivity project is nearing completion and was funded by a Virginia Outdoors Foundation “GO” (Get Outdoors) grant. The concept for the project was to connect the town of Fieldale to Fieldale Park and the trail with a safe route for walkers, bikers, and runners young and old. Though there are sidewalks in uptown, none connect all the way to the park. The solution -- steps that were designed and installed by J.E. Edwards Construction and located on the hill at the back corner of the park. A crosswalk will soon be installed from the corner of Field Avenue and Patrick Avenue. The remaining work consists of filling in approximately 45 feet of trail from the steps to the small footbridge. Gravel will be hauled in on a small trailer and spread on the trail.

Chatham Heights Park is a City of Martinsville Recreation asset located at 800 Garden Lane. With funding from the Eco Ambassador Council, the landscaped steps that lead to the hiking trail will be replaced, parts of the trail will be reworked and additional signage will be placed along the trail. The project has been approved by the City but work has not yet started. Anyone wishing to see the project and the work that needs to be done can contact Brian Williams for details. Help will be needed during each stage of this project.



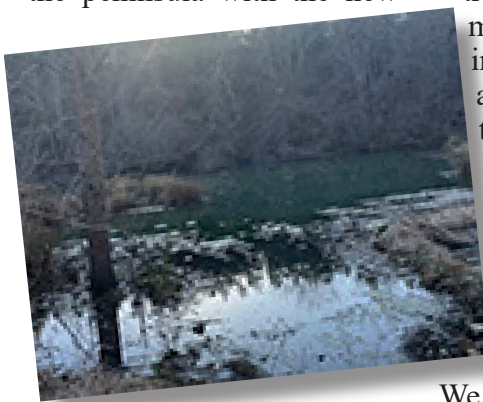
Frank Wilson Park is 30 acres of woods located at 502 E. Church Street in Martinsville. It has a playground, picnic shelters, a skateboard park, disc golf, and some trails. The back entrance is located off Oakdale Street behind the Virginia Museum of Natural History. Last year DRBA redesigned this entrance to make it more user-friendly. We placed new signage and made flower boxes and other enhancements to the trail. MHC Students did a clean-up to finalize the project. The work was funded by a grant from Rotary International and the Community Foundation of the

Piedmont. This year, an additional grant from Rotary will allow us to do more work at this entrance. This will include removing vegetation along the hillside to open up the view across from the museum, a clean-up of the site, trail work, and signage. Volunteers will be needed.

Patrick and Henry Community College is the location for a new two-mile trail! This project will begin near the Frith Building on campus and continue down to the Martinsville Reservoir. Additional development will connect the existing loop trail on the peninsula with the new



trail. While much of the trail is already in place and used as an access by the maintenance department, some new trail will be cut to add switchbacks allowing an easier route up the hill. A boardwalk will be installed along a wetland and a kiosk with map and new signage will provide users an overview of the trails. Trail directional signage will be installed as needed along the route.



The P&HCC maintenance staff will rough cut the new section of trail but it will be up to DRBA staff and volunteers to do the finishing work. The trail will be used by P&HCC students for extracurricular work and access to water quality testing sites along Beaver Creek.

See a common thread here? Do we need some volunteer help? Yes! We do! If you are interested in donating your time, please contact Brian Williams. We will have some work days scheduled but we are also open to individuals volunteering independently on many of the projects.

Science Rockettes Rule!

The fifth-grade girls at Snow Creek Elementary held their first science club meeting recently. After voting to name the club “Science Rockettes,” the group was introduced to the two-year program being made available to them through the Roanoke Women’s Foundation “Educating the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards” grant awarded to DRBA last fall. Through this grant, women in the field of science throughout the Dan River Basin will visit Snow Creek Elementary and present to the girls on their work in the science field. Following each presentation, the girls will participate in a hands-on activity. (see story V22 Issue 1 page 5)



DRBA’s Education Outreach Manager, Krista Hodges, presented to the Science Rockettes in March. The girls learned about DRBA and water quality protection and completed a water filtration project. In April, the girls will hear from Regina Flora, a Virginia Master Naturalist and Girls Who Hike Virginia Ambassador. Jessica Driver from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will speak in May.

In addition to the girls’ science club, the program menu includes a Green Schoolyard, Monarch Waystation, Tub of Bugs, Trout in the Classroom, Rain Barrel Workshop, Streamside Trees in the Classroom, Outdoor Classroom, and Water Quality Monitoring. During the two years, DRBA will build upon each student’s learning experience and connect the presentations and material from one grade level to the next.

2022 Fact Check: DRBA is typically the first place people call when they see a threat to the environment and a lot of times we are the first-responder in our region. We responded to and helped mitigate and monitor water quality after a feed spill occurred in Patrick County, we assisted with the resolution of several municipal sewer and flooding issues, and we participated with local, state and federal committees in the study of water, land, and air management.

Hashtag DRBA!

This year, DRBA will feature different areas of the basin through our

#WatershedWednesday

posts on Facebook. The posts will lead to our interactive map at www.danriver.org/interactive-map.

In January, the Banister River in Halifax County was featured. This beautiful resource is a part of the SOVA Wild Blueway and offers the opportunity to fight twelve to fifteen-pound stripers in fast-running water from late April to mid-May.

Be sure to like and follow our Facebook and Instagram pages to see our next #WatershedWednesday post.



Board Event -



Books, Bees, and Bunnies!!

The Dan River Basin Association partnered with Martinsville Bee City on an educational booth for the Harvest Youth Board Event - Books and Bunnies. The event was held Saturday, March 25th at the Sports Complex in Martinsville and brought in over 700 guests.

DRBA’s booth, with the theme “We All Live Downstream,” focused on water quality and macroinvertebrates and incorporated the Enviroscope Watershed Model.

Martinsville Bee City focused on the importance of pollinators to our environment. Local beekeepers, Whitlock Family Apiaries, brought in a demonstration beehive for guests to view the bees busy at work in the hive.

Rain Barrels

are a tried-and-true method of stormwater management. Incorporating this sustainable and innovative practice benefits communities in the Dan River Basin. Families that include the practice in their daily lives, teach children sustainable practices. As a part of any neighborhood, rain barrels can serve as a visual communication of sustainable innovative practices. for those living in neighborhoods.

“Conserve Our Water” is a rain barrel education program funded by the Community Foundation of the Dan River Region that offers citizens in the Danville, Pittsylvania, and Caswell regions to actively and purposely engage in environmental stewardship and sustainability. The program consists of two rain barrel workshops in the Danville area in 2023. Though currently full, the first workshop will be held

April 25th from 5:30-7:30 pm

at

Ballad Brewing on Craighead Street

Participants will learn the importance of water conservation and how to reduce their own water footprint. Materials necessary for the construction of a rain barrel will be provided allowing participants the opportunity to convert a food-grade drum into a usable rain barrel for their edible garden, flowers, or livestock needs. Workshop participants will be provided a 55-gallon drum, a rain barrel conversion kit, a protective screen covering to prevent mosquitoes from contaminating the water, spray paint primer, and a maintenance and care pamphlet that includes details for summer and winter care of the rain barrels.

RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

Learn how to conserve water and harvest rain with us!

April 25th | 5:30 – 7:30pm

BALLAD BREWING
600 Craighead Street, Danville, VA

You'll receive your 55-gallon barrel, supplies, instructions and guide!

Register today at the link below!
Please limit only one barrel per person.
<https://www.danriver.org/support-drba/shop/shop-our-products>

For questions, please contact Krista Hodges at khodges@danriver.org.



A rain barrel is a tool that can be used to reduce stormwater runoff and help to save money on water bills. Registration for the fall workshop is now being accepted.



DRBA welcomes

Regina Flora!

Regina has joined the DRBA team as Assistant Educator. She is a graduate

of Old Dominion University where she majored in Professional Communications and completed her Master's Degree in Occupational and Technical Studies with a concentration in education.

Regina's background includes volunteer work as a Virginia Master Naturalist and she currently serves as chair for Education Outreach with the Southwestern Piedmont Master Naturalist chapter. She also volunteers as a CWQM.

Over the past years, Regina has led many interpretive walks and outdoor learning sessions as a leader for Boy Scouts of America and leads official hikes as a southern ambassador for Girls Who Hike Virginia.

Regina loves to travel and explore diverse outdoor places around the world. She has visited all 50 states and several other countries. At home, she gardens, hikes, and is an avid birdwatcher.

"I really enjoy getting to know other DRBA members during FSO outings and appreciate the outstanding work they do in our communities. I'm very excited about the opportunity to work directly for the organization as we provide environmental education."

Regina Flora
DRBA Assistant Educator

"DRBA's reach through our environmental education programs has doubled since 2021. While a small dip occurred during the pandemic, we continued to offer education programs, and that consistency was needed for students and teachers during that time. Now, teachers and educators from around the basin reach out to DRBA on a daily basis to schedule hands-on environmental education programs. We are thankful for all of the support and the growing interest in DRBA's programs."

Krista Hodges, Education Outreach Manager
Dan River Basin Association

Every Kid Outdoors Grant

Fourth-grade students in Rockingham County will now get more time outside!

DRBA recently received the *Every Kid Outdoors* grant from the National Park Trust to complement our program *Fostering Outdoor Stewards through Streamside Trees in the Classroom* (STIC) in North Carolina. This program is deeply rooted in the Virginia side of our basin. Streamside Trees in the Classroom began in Virginia in 2012 and serves hundreds of students annually. Connecting our communities to their public lands and waters is important to DRBA's mission.

Now, North Carolina will get the opportunity to host a pilot program in Rockingham County. The three schools chosen for the 2023 program include Huntsville Elementary, Dillard Academy, and Stoneville Elementary. Students in this program will root native black willow cuttings in the classroom. Weeks later, while on a field trip in May, they will plant them along a stream in need of restoration at Stoneville Memorial Park. Along with the planting, students will engage with over seven local natural resource partners for an array of hands-on programs.



“We are delighted to expand our partnership with the USDA Forest Service by providing numerous nonprofits and schools across the country with Every Kid Outdoors Transportation Grants,” said Grace Lee, Executive Director of National Park Trust.

National Park Trust has been a leader in youth outdoor programming and actively addresses the lack of transportation to outdoor spaces -- one of the most significant barriers to kids getting outside and experiencing nature. The Every Kid Outdoors program is a federal youth initiative designed to provide every fourth grader in the United States the opportunity to visit public lands and waters with their families at no charge. The Park Trust and USDA

These critical resources will allow thousands of children from under-served communities to discover our public lands and waters. For many of these students, it will be their first opportunity to explore the great outdoors.

Grace Lee, Executive Director
National Park Trust.

Forest Service are partnering to provide experiences with the outdoors as a classroom. This will help kids establish lifelong connections with nature and become the next generation of park stewards.

“We are thrilled to provide this hands-on learning experience for students in Rockingham County. This project gives teachers an opportunity to take what they are learning in the classroom outside and connect students to their community through a real world experience,” says Krista Hodges, Education Outreach Manager, Dan River Basin Association.

DRBA continues to expand its education outreach throughout the basin and looks forward to having a successful plant day for the students.

2022 Fact Check: Our stewardship successes include

Trash Trout Installation, Eden, NC ~ 26 cleanups, basinwide ~ Dan River Corridor Study
Landsavers Board of Directors Presentation ~ IALR, Danville ~ VADWR Stocking Trout Stock
VADWR ElectroFishing Data Collection ~ VA Agritourism Conference presentations ~ NC State
Trail Partner ~ CWQM monthly monitoring ~ Outdoor Safety Stakeholder Meetings ~ Uranium
mining litigation, Supreme Court ~ MVP – advocacy for property owners ~ Response to 26 threats
to waterways ~ Dam ID/Signage project ~ Basin-wide Riparian Buffer Assessment

Celebrating 21 years of Success in the Basin

Dan River Basin Association:

Official Partner for the Dan River State Paddle Trail

Have you heard? Dan River Basin Association is the official partner for the Dan River State Paddle Trail. NC Program Coordinator Anna Wheeler has been working with State Parks and local municipalities to send in applications for river access designations. Applications for each river access will not change the maintenance or ownership of the accesses, but they will allow State Parks to have the locations populated on their website. This resource will increase both the knowledge and the safe use of our basin!

The applications for the State Parks included emergency response plans, information on the access type (stairs, ramp, concrete, metal), photos, and a map of the proposed trail. Currently, the submission of seven river accesses in Rockingham County have been approved. Madison River Park, 704 Access (Water Street), Jacobs Creek Batteau Landing, Dan River Game Lands, Klyce Street, Leaksville Landing, and the Boat Landing (NC Wildlife).

The next step was sharing public comment -- this was posted at each of the proposed accesses, and will later be sent to the State Park's Trail Committee for approval this spring.

We hope you have enjoyed this edition of

CURRENTS

This issue has been made available to all members, donors, participants, and partners.

It is our way to thank you for your continued support and to share with you the many programs DRBA leads throughout the year.

Find out how you can support DRBA through your gifts or your volunteer spirit by visiting www.danriver.org. A digital copy of each issue can be found online by logging onto the Members Only page.

Congratulations! You and I are awesome!

Why? Because we support DRBA's work to protect our natural resources for future generations. And frankly, that is truly awesome!

We all want a clean and healthy environment but, admit it, it's not always easy to do. Most of us need to turn on the lights, drive our cars, and eat packaged food bought in a store. It can be frustrating trying to protect our environment -- from the energy wasted, the exhaust, and the trash generated throughout our usual day.

But, I want to remind you that you are making a real and tangible impact on our world by supporting DRBA. And, if you add that to turning off the faucet when brushing your teeth, clicking off the lights when not in use, shopping for some of your food at a Farmers Market, and biking or walking to your daily destinations... well, you're doing even more than most.

So, again, you are awesome! Thank you for supporting DRBA and thank you for taking care of our planet!

Tiffany Haworth, Executive Director
Dan River Basin Association

Stormwater SMART Program

An excited group of volunteers met at the Water Street Access in Madison on a rainy Saturday morning, recently. In partnership with the Piedmont Triad Regional Council's *Stormwater SMART* Program, ten eager volunteers collected over ten bags of trash, four five-gallon buckets, two tires, and two trash cans from along the river access.

The Town of Madison has received funding to expand the park's access that will include access to an existing natural beach area, a boardwalk, and an in-stream rehabilitation habitat for fish and macroinvertebrates. The project site had recently been forestry mulched to clear out the underbrush and this exposed more litter than had been seen on previous cleanups. The cleanup prior to the project development helped show a more beautiful project site and kept the newly discovered litter from entering the Dan River.

"We are so glad we got to work with DRBA to coordinate this cleanup! It always warms our hearts when people take the time on their Saturday mornings to help clean up local communities. We picked up more litter than we expected and couldn't have done it without the help of all of our volunteers! We are looking forward to working with DRBA in the near future!" said Haley Bock, Americorps with Stormwater SMART.



DRBA and Stormwater SMART put on a great cleanup -- the river access needed it, plus I was able to see a new river section that I look forward to exploring in the summertime.

Will MacKinnon
Volunteer

Stormwater SMART is a cooperative extension partnership between county and municipal governments with the goal of providing education and outreach in areas regarding stormwater pollution, water quality, and the conservation of water throughout our local watersheds.

To add to the fun at the end of the day, the volunteers chose to vote on the strangest item found; this time it was brake pads from a train that had been collected by Sonya and Jessica! Thanks to our volunteers who took a few hours of their day to clean up the river access and make our area a more beautiful place!

We appreciate our partnership with the Town of Madison and Madison-Mayodan Recreation Department for allowing us access and hauling the trash away!

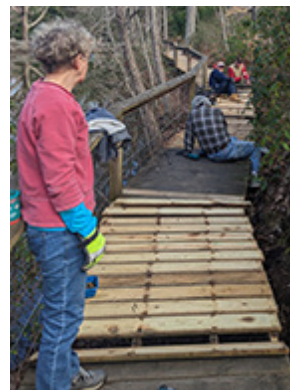
Friends of the Chinqua-Penn Trail

Volunteers get the work done and whether digging in the dirt or building boardwalks, Friends of Chinqua Penn Trail is ready for the challenge. The 300-foot boardwalk along Lake Betsy on the Chiqua Penn trail had a few slippery and rotten boards that needed to be replaced to increase safety. On a cool Wednesday morning, Anna Wheeler found them neck-deep in board flipping and replacement!

It is not without a LOT of volunteer labor that these projects and trails get done. Volunteers can curb large labor costs, whether expertly skilled or not.

If you would like to get involved in volunteering, join DRBA's volunteer alerts, share your information with your local program person, and get excited to get dirty with DRBA!

A special thank you to Hugh Montgomery for gathering the volunteer crew for this effort and thank you to every trail volunteer out there, you are all superstars!



2022 Fact Check:

DRBA was recognized as a vital community partner in environmental education by a Virginia Naturally School. DRBA's Environmental Education program worked with over 8,000 youth. Programs included the Epic River Experience, the Inspire Clean Water Project, and the Planting Seeds of Change for Youth. We sustained 14 tanks with Trout in the Classroom.

Other successes include:

Monarch Waystations ~ STEM ~ MHC After 3 Spring & Fall Workshops ~ Rain Barrel Workshops ~ VA SOS Training ~ Growing Kids & Trees Project ~ Eco Learning Portal ~ STIC ~ Day in the Woods ~ Master Naturalist Training ~ Planting Seeds of Change

Taking A Fresh Look

In 2022, DRBA reached the amazing milestone of serving the Dan River region for two decades. It was the perfect time for the DRBA staff, Board of Directors and volunteers to evaluate our programs, services and administrative practices and policies to ensure we are doing our work in the most efficient and cost-effective way possible.

DRBA's Membership program was evaluated. Through research and analysis, five key themes were identified:

- We asked dozens of successful environmental organizations across the country to share their membership/donor policies.
- Research showed us that people who wish to support an organization would prefer to make a one-time or monthly donation to provide programs and services.
- The administration of our current membership program is not cost effective.
- DRBA's membership has decreased by almost 40% over the past decade while the number of donors increased by more than 10% in 2022 alone. Last year, our donations exceeded our membership fees by more than 60%.
- With some exceptions, giving tiers can be an obstruction to achieving an inclusive and welcoming message to potential supporters.

Based on this research, DRBA has proposed the following changes to its membership program:

- All DRBA members will be known as donors and collectively be known as the "Friends of DRBA."
- Levels of membership will be eliminated; all donations will be honored and appreciated.
- Individual donor will receive a DRBA decal as our thanks.
- DRBA's quarterly magazine "Currents" will be made available electronically to the public.
- A new publication, "Inside DRBA" will highlight insider news and activities and will be emailed periodically to the Friends of DRBA.
- Friends of DRBA will receive periodic invitations to special hikes and events and will receive occasional discounts on DRBA merchandise.
- The River Legacy Circle, designated donors who generously provide \$1,000 or more annually, will continue to be recognized throughout the year.

DRBA has held four live sharing sessions with its members to discuss the proposed changes and receive feedback and a survey has been launched to every member. If you haven't already, please take the Membership Survey through this link: bit.ly/3TB90fu If you have any questions or concerns related to the proposed change, contact Tiffany Haworth (thaworth@danriver.org)

The results of the survey will be provided to the membership in early May via email.

DRBA's members have proven to be the most loyal and generous people dedicated to the protection and promotion of the natural and cultural resources of the Dan River Basin. The proposed changes to the DRBA membership program are designed to help our supporters do more and make a greater impact with their generous donation.



Special Note!



You are the reason DRBA is successful.

You value our local natural and cultural resources and generously invest your time and treasure to ensure these amazing resources are around for future generations. We truly appreciate your support - whether you are a donor, participating in our outings, volunteering, or talking about us on social media - it all counts! Right now, your support is critical for DRBA's success. Your gift will help us continue to do the incredible work we do. We have so many projects planned in 2023 and your generosity will help make them a reality.

Your generosity will support...

- Building trails, parks and river accesses for people of all ages and abilities.
- Supplies to clean-up our trails and rivers and provide monthly water quality monitoring.
- Advocacy at the local, state and national level to protect our natural resources and promote conservation.
- DRBA's work to ensure access to the outdoors and quality environmental education.

Thank you for caring!

Your support is so important to our region, thank you! For those who give \$1,000 and above, you will become a supporter of the River Legacy Circle. Learn more at www.danriver.org

Please include this form with your payment OR donate online: danriver.org/donate

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Contact Email: _____

DONATION AMOUNT \$ _____

Please make your check payable to and mail to:
 Dan River Basin Association
 413 Church Street, Suite 401, Eden, NC 27288
More info? (336) 627-6270
drba.nc@danriver.org
Stay in touch!
 Facebook: /DanRiverBasinAssoc
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READY TO BE A PART OF SOMETHING GREAT? VOLUNTEER WITH DRBA TODAY!

Celebrating 21 years of Fun in the Basin!

January FSO at Matrimony Creek

DRBA's First Saturday Outing started off with a bang in 2023 when 60 people braved the chilly weather on January 7th to kick off North Carolina's "Year of Trail." The hike on the Matrimony Creek Trail in Eden, NC was an interesting organizational feat to make sure all 60 completed their DRBA waivers!

At the trailhead, Anna Wheeler, DRBA's North Carolina Program Manager, introduced folks to the trail and pointed out the "Trash Trout." The passive stormwater debris collection device was installed in the creek by DRBA staff and is in partnership with the Dan River Keeper and the City of Eden.

The trail, owned by the City of Eden, was opened in August 2018. The first time I walked it in 2019, the trail had been significantly damaged by a storm. Eden spent considerable effort to repair it, so now it is a flat, one-mile long, picturesque, six to eight-foot wide crushed gravel trail running along Matrimony Creek. It leads to a lovely five-foot waterfall where mills have been erected over the years, the first one in the 1700s. Two mills have burned down and presently there are only some remains of a mill at the site.

The creek received its name from William Byrd when he was surveying the boundary line between the colonies of North Carolina and Virginia in 1728. He wrote in his diary that Matrimony was "call'd so by an unfortunate married man because it was exceedingly noisy and impetuous". I found that it was rather quiet and peaceful until we reached the rapids and the waterfall!

The trail had a short branch not too far before the waterfall that connects to Douglas Elementary School. I did not walk on it but many in the group did and said it was a pleasant walk.

As we returned to our cars, Tony Smith, who walked with us and who owns land near the trail, kindly provided snacks for the whole group at the trailhead shelter. Ellen Jessee

February FSO at the Red Hawk Trail

The DRBA February FSO continued the celebration of North Carolina's Year of the Trail and featured the Red Tail Hawk Trail at Mayo Lake in Person

County. Seventeen hikers enjoyed the two-and-a-half-mile loop through the woods and along the shore of Mayo Lake on a crisp mid-winter day. A connecting trail, the Sappony Spring Trail was also hiked for a view of the Sappony Spring, which emerges from a hillside with clear, cold water gently flowing through the park. This spring was an important source of water for the Sappony Indian Tribe that inhabited the area during the 1600s to early 1700s.

Mayo Lake Park was established in 1996 and is named for William Mayo, a surveyor with William Byrd's 1728 marking of the Virginia/North Carolina border. Wayne Kirkpatrick

March FSO at Rockingham Community College

DRBA hosted a hike at the Rockingham Community College campus on March 4, 2023, in Wentworth, NC. The hike was an opportunity to recognize "The Year of the Trail" proclamation issued by the North Carolina Legislature to promote awareness of trails across the state. Lindsey Pegg, Assistant Tourism Director for Rockingham County, gave an overview of promotional efforts to educate the public about recreation opportunities.

*RCC Trail Hike
Dan River Basin
Association was a
full fledge adventure,
filled with crossing
creeks and skeletal
remains, a mineral
spring, and new
friends and old
friends as well.*
Valencia

An impressive group of 64 hikers gathered on a beautiful late winter afternoon, including a one-month-old baby and 6 dogs. Will Truslow served as hike coordinator and noted points of interest along the route. The two-hour event included a visit to the historic Wentworth Mineral Springs, a popular recreational site in the 19th century.

The hike provided skills-practice in navigating uneven terrain and crossing steep ravines over streams. Participants were innovative in deciding on optional routes to traverse challenging sections of the trail. The stark beauty of the forest was complimented by groves of Mountain Laurel. The group enjoyed the fellowship and readily aided each other throughout the hike. This event highlighted the scenic, natural beauty of North Carolina trails. Janice Bailey



Memberships and Donations
1/01/2023 - 03/31/2023

River Legacy Circle

Mark and Mary Hill
Bishopric
Donald Lampe
George W. Lester II
Hugh City and
Margaret Petty

Benefactor Membership

Ward Triche

Protector Membership

Martha Carruthers

Steward Membership

Jenny Clark
Margaret Gurley and
Tom Edmonds
Kathy Haney
David C. Henderson
Donald and Linda Howard
James and Kara Kirkpatrick
Tom and Linda Rachner

Family Membership

Amy Farinelli
Latala Payne Hodges
Robert and Bethy Jackle
Don Leathers
Katie Whitehead
and Robert McNutt
Eric and Lorraine Tichay
Terri Tobin

Individual Membership

Marianne S. Aiken
Joseph Berry
Marie DeHart
Keith Elliott
Barbara Fetsch
Shari Hopkins
Barry Shelton
Ernest G. Smith
Maurice Vaughan

Sustainer Memberships

Chris Adcock
Kathryn Converse
Mark Estes
Tiffany Haworth
Jarod and Krista Hodges
Judith Jones

Vince Joyce
Sharon M. Olson
Lee Templeton
Fletcher and Ginger
Waynick

Donations
1/1/2023 - 3/31/2023

Jenny Clark
Scott Ehrhardt
Tracie Heavner and
Jim Frith, Jr.
Rob Gelblum
Latala Payne Hodges
Mr. and Mrs. Dwight
Hopkins
Thomas Kostal in memory
of Lindley Butler
Dan and Beth Mosca in
memory of Lindley Butler
and in honor of T Butler
Denzil Turner

**Donations to the Butler
Legacy Fund**

Tom and Gloria Butler
Jeannie Christensen

**Donations in Memory of
Robin Light**

Mike and Jane Haines

**Corporate and
Organization Donations**

AmazonSmile
Kroger
Lake Lanier Association
Maud Clement Garden Club
Metal Rain Tanks, LLC

Project Partnerships

National Park Trust
Patrick and Henry Commu-
nity College

**Chinqua Penn Trail
Donations**

NH and LC Aldridge

**Eco-Ambassador
Council 2023**

Carter Bank and Trust
Clark Gas and Oil
Company, Inc.

Join the Celebration!

DRBA's Annual Celebration will include keynote speaker Spencer J. Tassone of the Department of Environmental Sciences at University of Virginia. Tassone will talk about his acclaimed work in water quality and the study of harmful algal blooms in Virginia. There will be a special performance of "Song of the Dan" performed by writer/composer Angela Daniel-Upchurch, a tribute to our retiring board members, volunteer awards, DRBA project updates and a ribbon-cutting for a new trail.

Please join us for a morning of celebration, food, fellowship and fun and we promise you'll learn something new!

Saturday, June 3, 2023

9:30 am - 11:30 am

Patrick & Henry Community College

Frith Building

645 Patriot Ave, Martinsville, VA 24112

Following the celebration, you are welcome to have lunch in the area or bring your own picnic on campus; then join us at 1:30pm for a hike on the new Beaver Creek Campus Trail!

DAN RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION
413 CHURCH STREET, SUITE 401
EDEN, NC 27288 - 3242



*DRBA hosts a variety of free public outings on the first Saturday of each month. Whether a hike or paddle, these outings are a perfect way to get to know DRBA, explore a new place, learn something about our region, and meet new people. Outings are appropriate for all ages and abilities.
A tradition since 2002!*

Calendar of events

<i>First Saturday Outing Paddle on the Dan</i>	<i>April 1, 2023 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM</i>
<i>Trail Town Weekend City of Eden</i>	<i>April 21, 2023 - April 23, 2023</i>
<i>Rain Barrel Workshop Danville, VA</i>	<i>April 25, 2023</i>
<i>First Saturday Outing Paddle on the North Mayo</i>	<i>May 6, 2023 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM</i>
<i>Dan River Boat Race</i>	<i>May 20, 2023 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM</i>
<i>Annual Celebration</i>	<i>June 4, 2023 9:30am – 11:30am</i>
<i>First Saturday Outing P&HCC Beaver Creek Trail</i>	<i>June 4, 2023 1:30pm – 3:00pm</i>

*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.
<https://www.danriver.org/events>*