



# CURRENTS

Dan River Basin Association

DANRIVER.ORG • Volume 20 • Issue 4 • Fall 2021

VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
SPREADING THE WORD THROUGH STEWARDSHIP  
PARTNERING ACROSS THE BASIN



# Currents • Volume 20 • Issue 4

## Dan River Basin Association

### North Carolina Offices

413 Church Street, Suite 401  
Eden, NC 27288-3242

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

Anna Wheeler  
North Carolina Program Coordinator  
336.627.6270  
awheeler@danriver.org

Melissa Mericle  
Office/Accounting Manager  
336-627-6270  
mmericle@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  
Collinsville Printing

### Photo Credits

Tiffany Haworth  
Krista Hodges  
Joe Keiper  
Betty Kirkpatrick  
Wayne Kirkpatrick  
Brian Williams

Valencia Abbott, Eden, NC  
Mark Bishopric, Eden, NC  
Tyler Carter, Martinsville, VA  
Jessica Driver, Chatham, VA

Mark Estes, South Boston, VA  
Paul Johnson, Martinsville, VA  
Tory Mabe, Danbury, NC  
Jo Proia, Summerfield, NC

Jim Tobin, Martinsville, VA  
Will Truslow, Greensboro, NC  
Fletcher Waynick, Reidsville, NC

## What's Inside

*Cleanups and Cautions 3 - 4*

*Festivals and Partnerships 4 - 5*

*Education and the Future 6*

*And, Just like That 7 - 8*

*First Saturday Outings 9*

*That's a Wrap! 10*

*Members and Donors 11*

### DRBA Board of Directors

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

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

Cover Photo: Tiffany Haworth





## DRBA Announces New Program Coordinator for North Carolina Projects

DRBA warmly welcomes our new North Carolina Program Coordinator, Anna Wheeler. Anna will be working on projects in DRBA's North Carolina counties throughout the Basin, including Stokes, Rockingham, Caswell, and Person Counties. She will coordinate DRBA's projects and programs in those regions, including trail, river access, and park construction, environmental education programs, cleanups, public workshops, and water quality monitoring.

"I am confident that having Anna join DRBA's staff will increase our ability to positively impact the communities we serve in North Carolina," said Tiffany Haworth, DRBA's Executive Director. "She not only has a passion for outdoor recreation and environmental protection, but she also has the skills and education to make a real difference for our region."

Previously, Anna served as DRBA's Recreation Assistant, helping to implement the Martinsville and Henry County Rivers and Trails Master Plan in Virginia. She is a recent graduate of Appalachian State University with a BS in Biology and a Certificate in GIS.

---

"I am ready to share my new ideas, seek new partnerships and collaborate with local communities to make a positive impact. As DRBA's Program Coordinator, I am excited to continue to help DRBA meet its mission of protecting and preserving our region's natural and cultural resources in North Carolina."

Anna Wheeler

---

To contact Anna Wheeler, please email [awheeler@danriver.org](mailto:awheeler@danriver.org) or call (336) 627-6270.



## Smith River Cleanup

More than 25 volunteers, age seven to 70, generously gave their time to clean almost 400 lbs of litter and debris from the Smith River and roadways during DRBA's annual Smith River Cleanup event held on August 14, 2021.



After gathering at the Smith River Sports Complex, groups worked to cleanup on land while others paddled the river to pick up trash along the banks. Everyone met back at the Sports Complex for a thank-you lunch and prize raffle.

Employees from Boxley, youth from the Boy Scouts, and individuals who live in both Virginia and North Carolina worked from 9 to noon despite the hot and humid day. Lunch was partially donated by Hugos Restaurant and Bar and the raffle prizes were donated by Smith

River Outfitters, Hugos, and Lisa Perez and family. Garbage removal was provided by Henry County.

To learn more about how you can help keep our local waterways clean and healthy for future generations, please visit DRBA's website, [www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org)

"For the past 12 years, DRBA has hosted and partnered with other organizations for an annual river cleanup event. Every year there's a bit less litter on the river, and that's a good thing. Every person that lives, works and plays in our community benefits from the amazing job these volunteers do."

Brian Williams  
DRBA's Virginia Program  
Manager.



## Spill on South Mayo River, VA

On September 14, DRBA staff learned of a spill caused by a tractor-trailer accident off Ayers Orchard Road on Russell Creek, a tributary of the South Mayo River, in Patrick County, VA. The driver was able to escape the partially overturned truck, but the trailer's contents of pelleted cattle feed had spilled on the creek bank and into the water, along with an unknown quantity of hydraulic fluid.



DRBA North Carolina Program Coordinator, Anna Wheeler, gathered soil and water samples near the location of the spill in Patrick County.

Although a majority of the feed had been cleaned up when DRBA staff arrived on the site, several hundred pounds of feed remained along the banks and was dissolving in the creek. DRBA staff quickly responded by collecting water samples and data from upstream and downstream of the site.

Because of your generosity as a DRBA supporter, our staff can respond quickly to threats like this to our waterways. Thank you!

DRBA staff will post testing results when they are available on our Facebook page and website.

We will keep you updated!



Brian Williams, DRBA Virginia Program Manager, collected water samples from Russell Creek in Patrick County.

## Stewardship

### Smith River Fest August 21

The annual Smith River Fest at the Smith River Sports Complex was a success for DRBA, as at least 35 people stopped by the tent display and learned about DRBA from volunteers Jessica Driver, Mark Bishopric, and Wayne Kirkpatrick. Adjacent to the tent was the Demo Pool, where DRBA staff and volunteers worked in heat, humidity, and the bright glare off the water to provide instruction, kayak and paddleboard experience, and a huge dose of fun to more than 50 children and adults.

Nonstop activity at the Demo Pool proved to be one of the festival's biggest hits. The intrepid group, including Brian Williams, Anna Wheeler, Jessica Driver, Mark Bishopric, Betty Kirkpatrick, and Kelly Neiderhiser, wore themselves to a frazzle helping kids and adults to get fitted into PFDs, to get into or onto a kayak or paddleboard, to instruct them on how to paddle, and to stay nearby as they paddled about the pool. After a short time, they were helping them off the watercraft just to do it all over and over again. Kudos to the entire crew for a long day of service to DRBA!

Meanwhile, Brian, Anna, and Kelly had set up DRBA's display; prepared for and officially started the river race for Henry County Parks and Recreation; and prepared for the Duck Derby race for the Boys and Girls Club of the Blue Ridge, including setting up the catch barrier for the little yellow ducks. Their workday began at 7:30 a.m. and lasted until after 7:00 p.m.

According to Wayne Kirkpatrick, "This crew cannot be thanked too often or too loudly – great work by all!"

Brian Williams expressed his thanks for DRBA's tireless staff and volunteers: "DRBA people were there doing what we do best, getting folks to learn and appreciate the water!" He commented, "DRBA was instrumental in starting this event over 13 years ago, so it's personal to me. Having a good presence at a River Fest that is actually on the river is a good thing."





## Eden Riverfest and the Sunflower Trail

The basin's festival season has been hit or miss during the summer and early fall of 2021, with COVID causing cancellations and postponements of most indoor events and some events that have both inside and outside activities. However, two recent events held in the basin were the Eden Riverfest, an outside street festival, and the Sunflower Trail portion of FarmFest in Stokes County.



At each event, DRBA volunteers and staff enjoyed sharing information about our programs with residents and visitors. Many of the guests were introduced to our water monitoring and sampling events, to our brochures, to information about our streams and trails, and to our various outing opportunities. The connections DRBA makes through these events increase awareness

of our work -- to preserve and promote the natural and cultural resources of the Dan River Basin.

Wayne Kirkpatrick



## Patrick County

A Patrick County trail is slated to benefit from upgrades to trail signage/markers, a kiosk, and other amenities for hikers and mountain bikers. An initial investment of \$500.00, generated from proceeds of the Annual Apple Dumpling 5K run/walk, has helped with an evaluation of needs for the IC DeHart Park trail system in Woolwine, VA.

Funds to create, purchase and install the amenities will come from the Eco Ambassador Council (EAC), a coalition of businesses in the Dan River region initiated by DRBA in 2019, who wish to combine their community investment to support environmental projects that increase tourism and economic development now, and preserve these precious resources for future generations. Initial commitments, with pledges of \$5,000 each, were made by Carter Bank & Trust, Lester Group, Blair Construction, Clark Gas & Oil, and Frith Construction.

DRBA is pleased to recognize IC DeHart Park as one of several projects considered by the EAC.

For information about the Apple Dumpling 5K Run/Walk, see page 7.

## Rotary Club Partnership

Tiffany Haworth, DRBA's Executive Director, spoke to the Martinsville Uptown Rotary Club in early September about DRBA's projects and plans in the area.

Since that time, the Rotary Club has pledged monies, and received a matching grant from Rotary International, to partner with DRBA in Uptown Martinsville. The project will include a natural surface educational trail at Jack Dalton Park. Volunteers from this club along with The Rotary Club of Martinsville and Henry County Rotary Club will be kicking off these projects in October 2021.

DRBA looks forward to working with these civic groups.



Martinsville Rotary Club Treasurer, Brandon Martin, presents Tiffany with a Rotary Mug after her presentation.

**Join the Dan River Basin Association TODAY!**  
[www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org)

## DRBA Partners with University Program

Averett University students recently completed their CWQM certification courses and are now prepared to monitor a local stream. Students enrolled in the Environmental Sciences program were trained at the beginning of the semester on CWQM methods. As part of the curriculum, they will monitor the site at Ballou Park for the next few months. The students input their data on the website CWQM database, the same as many of DRBA's volunteers.

At the end of the semester, DRBA staff will evaluate the students on the completion of the project. This is the second year DRBA has served as a community partner with Averett and their Environmental Science program.



## Powerful Voices Education Initiative

A select group of girls from the Danville area attended a workshop recently to discuss opportunities in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The young girls showed great passion for this field of study and posed a number of questions to a panel of women from the Danville area. The panel consisted of a diverse group of strong women who had set their minds to what they wanted to do at a very young age, many having worked at all costs to accomplish those goals. The girls shared their enthusiasm and had questions for all of the women on the panel, wanting to learn more.

I began working on the Powerful Voices education initiative to create more opportunities for students to learn about powerful women and to give students the opportunity to dream for their own futures with female role models in mind.

Katherine Clatterbuck  
Intern, The Institute for  
Advance Learning and  
Research

This was the first time the STEM workshop has been available to girls in the Danville area.

DRBA's Education Program Manager, Krista Hodges was honored to serve on the panel of women and hopes to see many more of these events made available to young girls.



## From the Executive Director

Summer may be fun, but when the weather gets cooler and the leaves start falling, we can tell that a change is happening. Autumn is the transition season that leads us from the hot, bright sunny months into the cold dark nights of winter and all of the fun the end of the year will bring.

When Fall begins, we are just a hop, skip, and jump away from Halloween, Thanksgiving, and (dare I say it?) winter holidays. Pumpkins, hot apple cider, warm sweater . . . these are all things we can look forward to in the coming weeks. Autumn is my favorite season of the year, and I am reminded of a quote I once read; its author is unknown: "The trees are about to show us how lovely it is to let go."

I don't think anyone can deny the stunning beauty of a landscape covered in shades of oranges, reds, and yellows or the absolute joy of letting go of stress and anxiety. So, I hope you'll join me this season and take advantage of all the outdoor recreational assets in our region that you helped create when you invested in DRBA. Feel proud, be in awe of the beauty around you and let go!

Tiffany Haworth



## Jim Tobin Monarch Waystation

It has been just three months since the ground breaking of the Jim Tobin Monarch Waystation at the Virginia Museum of Natural History, but few can argue the beauty and wonder that has been enjoyed by so many -- people and insects alike! Folks enjoy the opportunity to sit awhile as they watch bees and butter-



flies enjoy the nectar and the aroma of a variety of flowering plants found in this specialized habitat.

One recent visitor discovered the true mark of success when he found a chrysalis on the back of the memorial bench. The chrysalis is of a monarch butterfly getting very close to hatching! How exciting to see they have already made use of the waystation.

The food, water, and shelter found in a Monarch Waystation allows for the monarch to produce successive generations and sustain their annual migration.

Krista Hodges



Paw Park in Axton, VA

DRBA was proud to be a part of developing the trails funded by Ed Marvin and his family. The trails were dedicated to the memory of Jewel Spencer Marvin, an area native.



Woodland Trail in Spencer, VA

## Apple Dumpling Run/Walk to Benefit Patrick County Trails

Get ready for the Apple Dumpling 5K! October 16 marks the return of this celebrated event in Stuart, Virginia. Young and old alike have enjoyed participating in this event for many years, and it just keeps getting better!

Timing chips will assist with finishing orders this year thanks to the generous sponsorship from DRBA members Jonathan and Rebecca Adcock. Other sponsors include Jones and DeShon Orthodontics, Lynn Regan, Blue Ridge Tax and Accounting, Clark Gas & Oil, Patrick County Eye Associates, Clark Brothers Company, and Dr. Richard Cole. For additional information, contact Wayne at 540.570.3511 or wynbtyk@embarqmail.com

Online registration can be found here:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Stuart/TheAppleDumplingFestival5KStuartVA>

Paper registration forms are also available for participants.

On your mark, get set, GO!



And Just Like That . . .

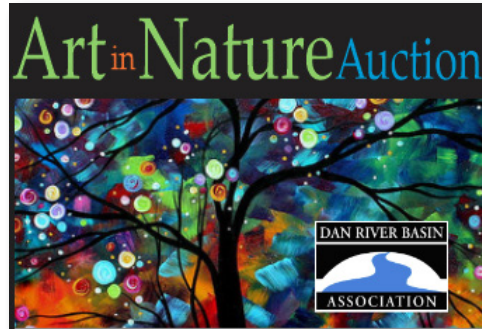


## Art in Nature Auction 2021

Need a kayak? Want to learn a new skill? Looking for a unique gift for your home or that special person in your life? You will find it all at DRBA's 2021 Art in Nature Auction where close to 100 items are waiting for your winning bid.

You will find a common theme among the donated items -- Nature! Everything on the block is made from nature, about nature, helps you enjoy nature, or works to protect nature. These one-of-a-kind treasures are up for bid just in time for holiday shopping. All proceeds from the auction will be used to continue the mission DRBA has set forth for almost 20 years.

*Bidding opens 8:00 am on October 25*



## Planning for the Future, Now



Krista Hodges, DRBA's Education Manager, was honored with an invitation to serve on the panel at the "Women in STEM: Inspiring the Next Generation" event held at the Institute for Advanced Learning in Danville, VA. Students in grades 4th through 8th met to discuss their dreams, their passions, and the interests they have in the field of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The panel introduced different STEM careers and talked with the students about how they got started in STEM.

Congratulations,  
Krista! You're an inspiration to all of us . . .

T Butler



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.



### Hiking the Smart View Trail July 3

July's First Saturday Outing was to hike the 3.5 mile trail on the Smart View Loop on the Blue Ridge Parkway, coordinated by DRBA Board member Wayne Kirkpatrick. I participated after reading about it in *The Enterprise* and talking with Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick. Our 14 hikers included one family with two small children, six ladies from the Danville area, the Kirkpatricks, and two other men, one being me, who will turn 80 this month. I walk in my neighborhood, but over the years my main source of recreation has been bicycling rail trails in Virginia, South Carolina, and Florida.

The weather was wonderful: cool and windy as we started and warming as the day progressed. As with any activity, some walked faster than others, but there was no rush to keep up a set pace. For a while, I walked slowly to get acquainted with the trail and to warm up. The Kirkpatricks were attentive to the group, answering questions and expressing concern for everyone's wellbeing. Everyone enjoyed the abundance of natural resources and exchanged information about trees and the extensive variety of plant life.



At one point we were able to see Philpott Lake south of the trail. I could hear birds in the woods, but it was difficult to spot them. There were several streams coursing down to mountain paths. All had rocks positioned that enabled everyone to step across without getting wet. There was one log crossing that was a challenge to some in the group, but a secure handrail was provided to make the crossing safer. The trail was steep in some places, but with the aid of a walking stick that one of the ladies shared with me, it wasn't difficult to continue up and down the trail.

After sharing a time of food and conversation at the picnic table, it was time to complete the last leg of the hike, which revealed some plants that I am familiar with in my back yard and in the area around Boone, NC where we lived for several years. The hike ended in a field that included a wide variety of plant life. Soon we were back at the parking lot taking pictures and sharing phone numbers with new friends.

Jim Churchwell

### August 7 FSO —Reynolds Homestead Forestry Tour

DRBA has visited the Forestry Projects for a tour led by Kyle Peer, Forestry Superintendent, every other year since 2007. Each year brings new information about the work and the on-site research being done by Virginia Tech at the Reynolds Homestead in Critz, Virginia.



Past hikes have allowed participants to view a mature deciduous tract of trees being harvested in preparation to receive Loblolly Pines. We have witnessed the knee-high seedlings, the two-year-old chest-high trees, and, on this hike, the towering pines nearing their maturity. These pines are part of a three-location project evaluating their growth and development under criteria involving location, density, fertilizer, and a host of other parameters. DRBA will enjoy another tour in 2023 to learn the latest about the woods at the Homestead!

### Paddle on the Smith River September 4

DRBA's September 4 FSO was the first river paddle in quite some time. But with a combination of COVID vaccinations and mask-wearing, folks appeared confident in the safety of an outing on the river. Nineteen paddlers in nineteen kayaks/canoes enjoyed the Smith River from the Henry County Sports Complex to the Mitchell Bridge Access.

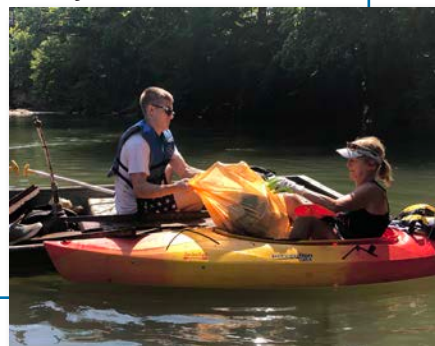
A beautiful clear day and clear water made for a scenic paddle. After a bit, the low water levels became a challenge since Philpott Lake and the Martinsville Dam had released water the previous day in preparation for an impending tropical system. The silver lining was an opportunity for paddlers to learn new skills and to practice "reading" the water in order to choose the best route through the Class I rapids. All in all, it was great fun with great friends.





"We don't clean [the]garbage out of the Smith River just to make it look nice, the Smith River provides drinking water to thousands of people who live in Martinsville and Henry County. In addition, the river provides economic development when visitors come to hike, paddle and fish. Keeping our natural resources protected and healthy is good for everyone's health and our local economy. These volunteers are true heroes."

Anna Wheeler, North Carolina Program Coordinator for DRBA



Fun and games with Will Truslow and Melissa Mericle at the Eden Riverfest

The Tub-o-bugs is always a crowd pleaser at the Stokes County FarmFest Tour



FSOs give folks the opportunities to meet friends and enjoy new experiences.

DRBA is proud to have the knowledgeable staff, the equipment, and the resources to properly evaluate changing environmental conditions.





## Memberships

6/16/2021 – 9/15/2021

### River Legacy Circle

Margaret Petty and Hugh Citty  
Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick  
M. Graham Park, III

### Benefactor Membership

Tom and Robin Taylor

### Steward Membership

Bill and Susan Moore  
Mike and Janice Wilkinson

### Protector Membership

Vencint Joyce

### Family Membership

Amy Bergamo  
John and Luanne Cherochak  
Martin Hundley  
Lee Jarrett  
Paul Lowry  
Mike and Lusanna Vaughan  
Charles Whittle, Jr.

### Individual Membership

Charlene Bowling  
Sandra Causey

Marie DeHart  
Katherine Fox  
Timothy Gee  
Scott Wingfield

### Sustainer Memberships

Lindley and T Butler  
Nancy Dethlefsen  
Mark Estes  
Amy Farinelli  
Tiffany Haworth  
Jarod and Krista Hodges  
Joe and Ellen Jessee  
Vencint Joyce  
Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick  
Sharon Olson  
Allison Szuba  
Fletcher and Ginger Waynick

### Municipality Membership

City of Eden  
City of Reidsville  
County of Henry, Virginia  
Halifax County Service Authority  
Rockingham County  
Town of Madison  
Town of Stoneville  
Town of Wentworth

## Donations

6/15/2021 – 9/15/2021

T Butler  
Jarod and Krista Hodges  
Dr. David L. Jones  
Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick  
Chris and Anna Lester  
Margaret Petty and Hugh Citty  
Martinsville Uptown Rotary Club  
Barbara Parker  
M. Graham Park, III  
Lynn Regan  
Reidsville Rotary

### Corporate/Organization Donations

AmazonSmile  
Kroger  
Lincoln Financial Foundation, Inc.  
Network for Good

### Project Partnerships

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Tourism Development Authority of Rockingham County

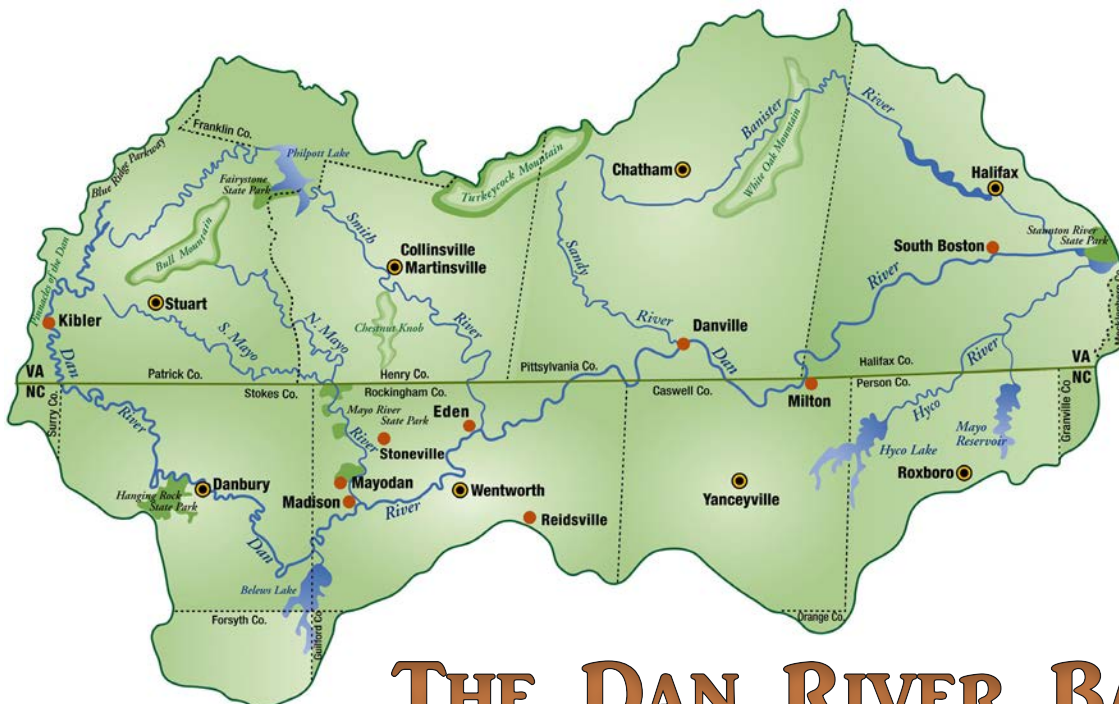


Eco Ambassador Council  
Patrick County Tourism Department

### Chinqua Penn Trail Donations

Big Apple Farm Supply  
Lindley and T Butler  
Steve and Pat Crist  
Dick's Drive In  
Pat Foeller  
Mandy Heidinger  
In Touch In Life LLC  
Ruth Leeper  
Kathy Norins  
James and Florence Putnam  
Split Ends  
John Strickland  
Lee Plummer Templeton  
Fletcher and Ginger Waynick  
Town of Wentworth  
Robert L. Wheless, DDS

Membership



# THE DAN RIVER BASIN



**First Saturday Outings**  
October 2 Paddle Mayo River, 220 Business  
to Avalon Dam  
November 6 Hike Iron Ore Belt at Haw River  
State Park  
December 4 Hike Danville Riverwalk

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



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