

CURRENTS

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Recreation • Education • Stewardship



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Cover photo

Farmer's Lake in Yanceyville, NC
Taken by Anna Wheeler

From the Director

Tiffany Haworth, Executive Director

Hello watershed advocates,

I want to talk to you about something that's not always exciting but is absolutely essential to protecting our natural resources... public input meetings.

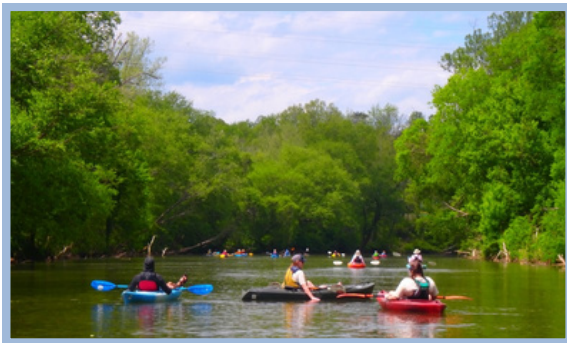
These meetings aren't anyone's idea of a fun way to spend an evening. They include several hours of listening and there are rarely any snacks. But these are the meetings where big decisions get made about the future of our watershed, our waterways, our wildlife, and our drinking water.

Unfortunately, I've watched too many of these critical decisions get made without the voice from the people who are affected the most. I can assure you that industry representatives are showing up with talking points that many times boil down to short-term economic gain over long-term environmental health; and future generations won't notice if convenience is chosen over conservation.

The process of public input meetings is designed to listen to public voices to make policy and permit decisions. These meetings give power to those who show up and speak up to help make those decisions. If we don't fill the room, someone else will and their priorities might not include clean water or healthy ecosystems.

Bring a friend.
Bring your concerns.
Bring your passion.

Just show up and speak up. You don't need to be a scientist or a policy expert. You just need to care about this wonderful and wild watershed we share. Together, we can make sure the Dan River and its five tributaries don't just survive, they thrive.



Paddlers on the Dan River, which could be impacted by projects that have public input meetings coming up

**Sign up to receive
DRBA's E-Newsletter
and stay informed on upcoming
public input meetings in the
basin region.**

A Summer of Caddisflies, Community, and Conservation



This summer, something small made a big impact.

From June 16 to July 14, DRBA held our Caddisfly Summer Campaign, a month-long celebration of water, wildlife, and the people who care deeply about both. Named after the humble caddisfly, the campaign invited our community to learn, engage, and give back in support of water quality and conservation efforts.

Why did we pick the caddisfly? The caddisfly is a small but mighty aquatic insect and a powerful symbol of clean, healthy water. As an indicator species, the presence of caddisflies signals strong ecosystems, which made them the perfect mascot for our campaign.



Encased caddisfly

At the heart of it all was a simple question: *What if we could use stories, science, and a little fun to make people fall in love with freshwater again?*

We launched with energy, excitement, and a literal tub full of bugs. The campaign kickoff featured a virtual Launch Party that featured real-life aquatic critters. It was the perfect way to introduce the caddisfly as our summer mascot and to start conversations about what these little creatures can teach us about the health of our rivers, streams, and wetlands.

Throughout the month, we shared stories across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and email, short videos, staff-written reflections, and hands-on activities for all ages. Some posts highlighted educational facts and the vital role caddisflies play in our ecosystems. We wanted to make sure everyone, from toddlers to long-time conservationists, could find something meaningful and fun to connect with.

continued on next page

And people responded. Engagement soared on posts like Krista's thoughtful article on environmental education, which reached dozens of people with a 22% engagement rate (more than ten times the average for most nonprofit social media posts). Every like, share, and comment helped us spread the word further, showing how much people care when given the chance to connect.

Behind the scenes, our team worked hard to keep the campaign consistent and impactful. We pre-scheduled content and designed family-friendly activities. Our social feeds stayed active, colorful, and full of life, just like the waterways we're working to protect.

As a result, we had a huge outflow of generosity. Supporters purchased limited-edition caddisfly shirts, donated through multiple platforms, and gave in support of our mission. In the end, after all the donations were counted, we raised more than \$13,800 — nearly triple our original \$5,000 goal.

Of course, none of this would've happened without a lot of people who showed up not just with their wallets, but with

their time, creativity, and heart. Whether it was sharing a post, wearing a campaign shirt to a family picnic, or helping a child spot a bug in the backyard, those small moments built something big, just like the caddisfly builds their home.



2025 Caddisfly t-shirt

As we look to next year, we're already excited about new ideas like nature challenges, new prize giveaways, more storytelling, and ways to make it even easier for families and individuals to get involved. We'll definitely bring back the shirts, but next year we will have a new mascot. You'll have to attend our Annual Meeting in March for the sneak peek.

The caddisfly may be small, but it reminds us that even the tiniest things can make a huge impact in protecting an entire ecosystem.

-Tiffany Haworth

Paddle Safety Classes are a HIT this summer



Participants at standup paddle board class

As part of our mission, I look for opportunities to increase community access to the outdoors across the Dan River Basin. This summer, through a grant awarded last fall, DRBA hosted 6 instructor-led paddle safety classes on the North Carolina side of the basin with full attendance!* That's over 60 people who will be more knowledgeable and comfortable on our waterways, and have increased accessibility to water-based recreation activities for the rest of their lives.

With expert instruction from GetOutdoors, participants are taught not only the basic mechanics of paddling but also useful *soft knowledge* that can be difficult to obtain as a beginner, like where to paddle based on skill level and paddling

routes. These classes educate paddlers about the importance of local knowledge, safe paddling, and how to plan their adventure on the water. All of which can have huge benefits for someone getting started and sticking with water-based recreation. A common barrier I come across when looking at access to outdoor recreation is a lack of knowledge or experience, which can lead to a fear of certain situations. In one of the Stand Up Paddleboard safety classes, there was a participant who shared a common fear of falling in and not being able to get back on the board. By sharing this fear and working through it in a class setting, this participant was able to learn tools and strategies to get on the board and build their confidence. By the end of the class, everyone on the water had confidently jumped off their board, gotten back on, and stood up. It was an evening that I have reflected on frequently throughout the summer.

These programs not only benefit individuals, but they also provide an opportunity for enhancing stewardship within our watershed. Since beginning this program in early May, we have had a significant number of students become paddlers at DRBA's First Saturday Outings, explore volunteer opportunities, and share the importance of their paddle safety class with others. These impacts show how providing educational opportunities for recreation can be powerful in not only creating more accessibility to the outdoors but also building stronger community connections throughout the Dan River Basin.

The classes end with each participant experiencing what it is like to be on the water in a safe environment. For experienced paddlers, I think we tend to take for granted what we innately gain from family and friends who share our love for floating down a river, because not everyone has that. Through these classes, we can provide that and include more people in the paddling community. While we may not know all the challenges a person faces getting outdoors, we can help them become more confident so they have a better chance at facing those challenges. I am grateful for everyone who has supported our paddle safety events and look forward to another summer of safe paddling!

-Anna Wheeler

*These classes are a result of an NC Recreation Trails Program Safety and Education Grant that DRBA was awarded last fall.

Projects, Projects, Everywhere!

We asked DRBA staff to share projects they have been working on the past few months.



Left: Jeff, IT pro. Upper: Updated remote office.
Lower: Melissa in her new office.

Melissa - In order to better utilize our space for all staff, it was time for an update at our office space in the Spray Mercantile Building in Eden, North Carolina. My office was tucked away down a little hallway, and I could not see visitors as they came upstairs and our internet access had about 5 points of failure that caused many issues. After getting the building owner, Mark Bishopric, on board, it was time to make some changes. My husband Jeff, an IT professional, volunteered his services to Mark and to DRBA to help relocate the internet and phone connections. He also used his carpentry skills to add trim to the office to enhance the space. I moved into the larger central office with a window facing the entrance and we made my old space a meeting room and remote office for visiting staff. The smaller office, vacated by Anna Wheeler when she became DRBA's Recreation & Stewardship Manager, will become the office for a new Administrative Assistant.



Tiffany - About 50 concerned citizens attended the NC DEQ MVP Southgate Permit Public Input Meeting. The majority voiced opposition to granting the permit for, and the construction of, the pipeline. The public comment period on MVP Southgate's water permit application is still open and you can submit a written comment until September 12, 2025 at 5 p.m. **Scan the QR Code to submit.**



Regina - I've been captivated by Monarchs this year and hope to keep encouraging many others to create Waystations so we can help save this endangered species.



Krista - We All Live Downstream Teacher Training - The Department of Conservation and Recreation Office of Environmental Education staff, Lori Schoenwiesner and Cassiopeia Camara, attended the We All Live Downstream Training at Campbell Court Elementary for Martinsville City and Henry County public school teachers. Eight teachers attended the training and participated in hands-on lessons, activities and presentations connecting them to the Dan River watershed. The one-day training was provided to teachers in Henry County and Martinsville City through funding from the Harvest Foundation and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation with the We All Live Downstream agreement. The goal of the training was to inform local teachers about the Green Leaves Investigations and Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEE) before the year starts so teachers can confidently utilize DRBA as a community partner throughout the school year. Teachers received a binder with over 60 pages of environmental education, local watershed-focused information that will incorporate inquiry-based learning, hands-on activities, standards correlation and relevant place-based content for their students in the Dan River basin.



Tiffany - VA Mayo River State Park Meeting - The Stakeholder Group that includes leaders from local organizations, government agencies and businesses were given a Virginia Mayo River State Park master planning update by the consultants. The master planning process is about halfway completed. The park's development was accomplished through a partnership between the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) and the region's Eco Ambassadors Council (EAC). This master planning process is a required step before investment can be made to complete the park.



Kensley - I have enjoyed working on the "We All Live Downstream" project with Martinsville City Schools. We provided a Professional Development opportunity for teachers this summer that included demonstrations of, and resources for, cross-curricular Environmental Education opportunities that they can implement in their own classrooms in accordance with Virginia Standards of Learning. At the training, I demonstrated the Enviroscape watershed model and sources of point and non-point pollution and ways they can be mitigated.

The Threats Persist, but So Do We

The Dan River still needs us and we all must answer the call.



Flowing through eight counties in both Virginia and North Carolina, the Dan River basin is more than just a scenic landscape. It is home to wildlife, some endangered, and to almost a million people. It is also a vacation destination for an estimated five million people each year. From the highlands of Patrick County, Virginia, to the marshy stretches of Kerr Reservoir (or Bugs Island, depending on which state you're standing in), this vast network of rivers and streams provides drinking water, agricultural products, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities. Yet, despite its natural beauty and vital importance, the Dan River is threatened by several environmental threats, past and present.

Most people remember this heartbreaking day suffered by the Dan River in February 2014, when a stormwater pipe collapsed beneath a coal ash pond owned by Duke Energy in Eden, North Carolina. This failure released a staggering 39,000 tons of coal ash and 27 million gallons of contaminated wastewater directly into the Dan River. The toxic slurry, filled with heavy metals like arsenic, selenium, and lead, polluted the waters and embedded harmful materials into the sediment of the riverbed. Although cleanup efforts helped remove some of the ash, long-term concerns remained. Contaminated sediments still line parts of the river, posing a threat to the health of fish and wildlife; and future floods could disturb these buried toxins, reintroducing them into the ecosystem. This event was more than a local disaster; it became an example of how what happens upstream can impact communities downstream for years, even decades.



Site of the Coal Ash Spill in 2014.

DRBA continues indefinitely to monitor the Dan River and take action when needed, but coal ash isn't the only threat impacting the health of the Dan River. Ongoing water quality issues persist throughout the basin, particularly from nonpoint source pollution (pollutants that enter the water from sources like urban runoff, agriculture, and failing septic systems). In places where erosion muddies the water, high turbidity reduces habitat quality for aquatic life. Even more concerning is fecal coliform contamination, which poses serious health risks to both humans and animals. Addressing these issues requires vigilant monitoring and improved stormwater infrastructure, something DRBA and its partners are actively promoting through watershed planning and community engagement.

Adding to these concerns is the persistent problem of litter and illegal dumping. It may seem minor compared to coal ash spills or nutrient runoff, but roadside trash and streamside dumping can significantly damage the health of our waterways. Plastics break down into harmful microplastics. The waste we produce every day can entangle wildlife or leach toxic substances into the water. DRBA has responded by organizing regular river cleanups, rallying volunteers from across the region to remove debris and raise awareness. These grassroots events not only beautify the landscape but also help to restore ecosystems, sustain economies that rely on natural resources, and reconnect people with the value of conserving and preserving our rivers.



Sign for the Keep the Ban Campaign, which opposed lifting the ban on Uranium mining in Virginia in (year).

This leads us to another critical issue: our commitment to ensuring environmental accountability in energy development within our region. While renewable energy sources are crucial to combating climate change and meeting the needs of a large population, they require ongoing monitoring and reassessment. Solar farms need to be managed carefully, as the improper disposal of old panels could introduce toxic waste into the environment and our waterways. Uranium mining, which is currently banned in Virginia, would fuel nuclear energy but could pose a lethal threat to water quality if the moratorium were lifted.

Natural gas initiatives, such as the MVP Southgate and the Southeast Supply Enhancement Project (SSEP) proposed by the Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company (Transco), have faced significant opposition. These projects aim to transport natural gas from an existing Transco station and connect with the Mountain Valley Pipeline's Main Line in Virginia, with delivery points extending to North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. Concerns center around their inability to demonstrate a genuine need for additional natural gas, as well as the potential disruption to wetlands, forests, and stream systems.

In these cases, DRBA has served as a watchdog and advocate, serving the waterways and communities of the watershed. Sometimes, we utilize the expert help of the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) to take legal action. Other times, we can help nature directly.



Volunteers building a riparian buffer in Danville, VA.

One of the most visible impacts of human activity is the widespread loss of natural land cover along the riverbanks. Riparian buffers, those green strips of trees and vegetation along waterways, are essential for stabilizing banks, filter runoff, and supporting wildlife. Development and agriculture have decreased these natural protections, so with the help of regional grants and restoration projects, DRBA is working alongside landowners and community groups to replant trees, restore wetlands, and bring back the living barriers that will protect our waterways for future generations.



Training for the CWQM program.

What we are most proud of is seeing an increase in community engagement. Citizens are not waiting for someone else to fix or fight these issues; they're stepping up. Since we began our Citizen Water Quality Monitoring (CWQM) program, DRBA has provided free training for hundreds of volunteers to learn how to monitor local streams for E. coli and other pollutants. We are working with local governments and other partners to develop watershed plans not only to improve water quality and protect biodiversity, but also to expand recreational access, which can boost local economies looking to expand their tourism opportunities.

The Dan River Basin faces complex threats, more than many other watersheds. While its challenges are serious, so too is the commitment of those working to protect it. DRBA and its many partners on both sides of the VA/NC border are taking action and working to protect the natural resources in our region. Working together, through partnerships, cleanup efforts, education, advocacy, and restoration, we are hopeful we can preserve the Dan, its five tributaries, and the health of all of the streams and creeks today and for future generations to come. The Dan River is more than just water—it's heritage, health, and home. Whether you live nearby or visit, your voice and actions are part of the solution.

I hope this has inspired YOU to act. This is what you can do to help us protect our watershed:

- Join a cleanup or monitoring event with DRBA or local partners
- Support riparian restoration by volunteering or donating
- Stay informed about development proposals in your area.
- Reach out to us with any updates on projects or proposals.
- Speak up—contact officials, attend hearings, and advocate for clean water policies.

-Tiffany Haworth

Did you hear? Summer Podcast Adventures

We took a step outside with the *Virginia Outdoor Adventures* Podcast.

Anna Wheeler, Recreation and Stewardship Manager, and Brian Williams, retired DRBA staff member, went out with Jessica Bowser from the Virginia Outdoor Adventures podcast and gave her a tour of the beautiful areas around the Martinsville-Henry County area (MHC). To give her a full experience, Jessica spent three days exploring all that MHC has to offer. She went paddling on the Smith River, rented a bike on the Dick and Willie Trail, and hiked about every trail we had to offer! While this focused primarily on the promotion of outdoor adventures in MHC, we made sure to highlight the importance of local history, featured hotspots, and provided some expert safety tips for exploring the area. Thank you to *VisitMartinsville* for sponsoring these episodes and for allowing Anna and Brian to speak about the outdoor adventures available in MHC, and to Jessica for hosting DRBA on her podcast. Many of us are avid listeners of the Virginia Outdoor Adventures Podcast and have enjoyed learning about new places throughout Virginia.

**Find Jessica wherever you listen to podcasts.
Scan to be linked to Virginia Outdoor Adventures
episode webpages**

Episode 1



Episode 2



Jessica with Chris Powell, Operations Manager at Philpott Lake, and Beth Marshall, Marketing Manager for VisitMartinsville, at the Philpott Lake Visitor Center and Museum



Jessica on the Smith River

DRBA Introductions

There are some new people we want you to meet.



Kensley Yeatts

Environmental Education Coordinator

Kensley joins our staff after interning in the education department over the last six months as part of her senior internship with Liberty University. Kensley will work to incorporate inquiry-based learning, hands-on activities, standards correlation, and place-based content for students in the Dan River basin.



Cary Evans

Newsletter Design/Editing

Cary is a professional in the basin region who has volunteered to help with our newsletter. Through her experience as an environmental educator and education in environmental management, we are confident she will provide new ideas on sharing our work through the Currents Newsletter.

Volunteer Spotlight

Meet Melody Oliver, 58, a retired educator now serving as a Volunteer Environmental Educator (VEE).

How many years have you been a Volunteer Environmental Educator?

1 year

Why did you become a Volunteer Environmental Educator?

Becoming a VEE seemed like a very natural transition from teaching environmental science to staying busy and connected during retirement.

Do you have any children or pets?

I have two bright and beautiful grown daughters. My older daughter, Megan, is actually the one that talked me into doing the Virginia Master Naturalist basic training which was a bridge to becoming a VEE. I also have my “old girl”, a 15-year-old Cairn Terrier named Lylah.

Favorite place(s) in the basin to visit?

There are so many great places to visit in the Dan River Basin but one of my favorites is Fairystone State Park. It provides a variety of ways to get out and enjoy nature.

What are your hobbies outside of volunteering?

Not necessarily a hobby, but I enjoy preparing cards and sending them out by old-fashioned “snail mail”.

What inspires you to volunteer your time with DRBA?

DRBA is such a champion for two things I love - nature and education. It makes me proud to be associated with such a phenomenal organization.

What is your favorite part about volunteering with DRBA?

Retired doesn't mean expired. I like the way volunteering helps keep me busy and connected.



Feature Creature

Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)

These insects are well known for their LONG migration, traveling up to 3,000 miles from breeding grounds in the northeastern U.S. and southeast Canada to overwinter in the mountain forests of central Mexico, where they will hibernate from November through mid-March. Adults have striking orange-red wings with black veins and white spots. Males are slightly larger and distinguished by black dots on their wings. The average life span is about 4-5 weeks.

How can you help?

- Be a citizen scientist and report any monarch life cycle sightings to JourneyNorth.org.
- Plant native milkweed and avoid pesticides.
 - You can get your garden certified as a monarch waystation through monarchwatch.org

COMING SOON - **Lunch With DRBA: Monarch Waystations**

You will learn how to provide a proper habitat for this native butterfly. Get updates by signing up for our **e-newsletter** on our website.

-Regina Flora



Grow these plants to attract adult monarchs and provide food for caterpillars

Native milkweeds: common milkweed, swamp milkweed, butterfly milkweed, whorled milkweed, poke milkweed.

Perennials: Tickseed coreopsis, Black eyed Susan, Phlox, Ironweed, Liatris blazing star, Asters, Coneflowers, Joe-pye weed, Bee balm, Goldenrod

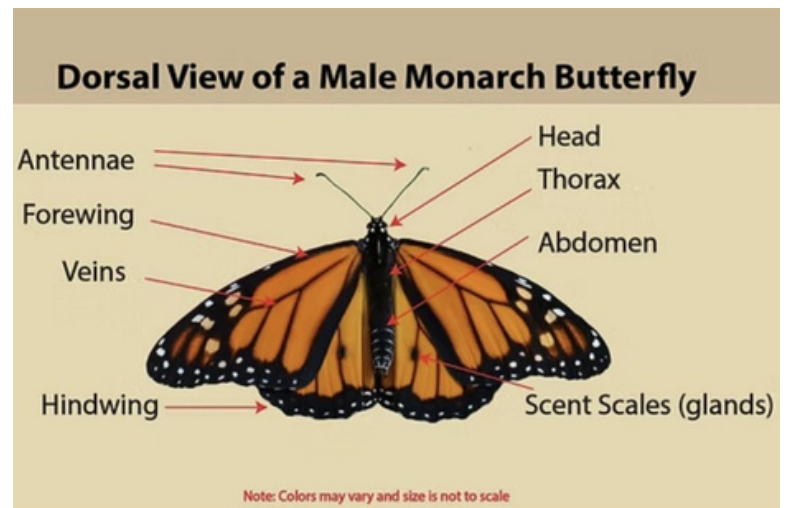
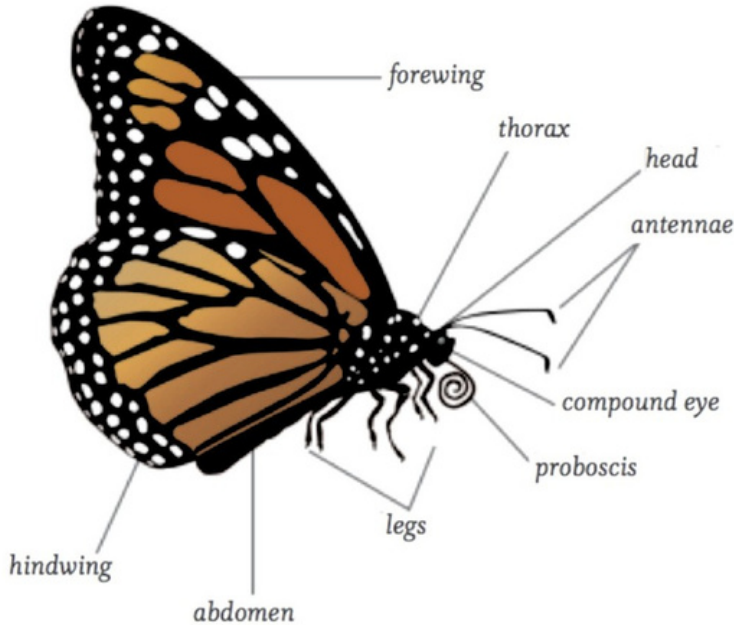
Annuals: Zinnia, cosmos, sunflowers, and Mexican Sunflower

RIVER RANGERS ACTIVITY

Monarch butterflies are beautiful orange insects that migrate in the fall, from our backyards to Mexico for the winter.

Take a look at their bodies, they don't have body parts like we do! Do you think you can figure out which body part is used for what?

1. Without a tongue, how do they taste milkweed and flowers?
2. Without ears, how do they hear danger?
3. Without a nose, how do they smell flowers?
4. Without a mouth, how do they drink nectar?
5. Without a voice, how do butterflies communicate?



Did you know?

Male monarchs have black spots on their wings, and females do not.

Which picture is the male butterfly?



Answers on page 14

Educators Corner

Learn something new and take it into your classroom, home, or next outdoor adventure.

What is a Dragonfly?

A dragonfly is an amazing creature that starts its life cycle in rivers and streams. As an aquatic insect, eggs are laid in the water and typically hatch in 2-5 weeks where they remain in the stream for one to two years. While in the stream, they are carnivorous feeders, consuming other aquatic insect larvae, worms and even small fish.

Dragonfly nymphs are fierce macroinvertebrate predators that hunt underwater in streams, using a unique labium (lower jaw) to capture prey. They ambush their prey, extending their labium with surprising speed to seize insects, tadpoles, and even small fish. They are an important part of the aquatic ecosystem, helping to control populations of other insects.

Dragonflies undergo incomplete metamorphosis meaning they do not have a pupal stage and instead transition straight from larvae to adult. Adult dragonflies are swift, agile, and fascinating creatures. They are classified as insectivores, meaning their diet primarily consists of insects and macroinvertebrates such as mosquitoes, flies, bees, and sometimes smaller dragonflies.



Dragonfly Life Cycle

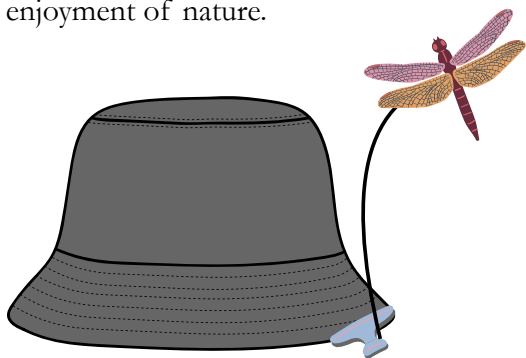


Common Whitetail (*Plathemis lydia*)

Adult dragonflies demonstrate direct flight, where their wings are directly attached to the flight muscles in their thorax (the middle body segment between the head and the abdomen). This gives them the ability to move each wing independently, allowing them to have incredible agility and maneuverability - inspiring engineering breakthroughs in flight mechanisms for drones and other small aircraft.

They also practice “intercept style predation,” in which they fly ahead of their prey instead of flying directly to prey or chasing them. This method of flight, manner of pursuit, and ability for some to fly at speeds of up to 35 miles per hour, are major contributors to their hunting success rate of almost 100%. Dragonflies can eat about 100 to 1000 mosquitoes in a day, so having them around is helpful for humans!

Some outdoor enthusiasts wear dragonfly hat clips when hiking, fishing, and participating in other activities, and report less mosquito bites and insect presence around them. Overall, dragonflies are a dominant force in the insect world and a beneficial insect for humans - inspiring flight technology, controlling mosquito populations, and contributing to our enjoyment of nature.



Can you find the dragonfly nymph?



-Krista Hodges and Kensley Yeatts

Summer Highlights

With summer coming to an end, we asked DRBA staff to share their top moments from the past few months



Krista - My favorite moment from the last few months was when I was presenting as a panelist on the Averett University Community Partner Panel and I was able to connect DRBA with every community partner there. DRBA had worked with every partner in some capacity or another. One of the ladies there with the Institute of Advance Learning and Research used to be a teacher in Pittsylvania County and she had been an original participant in our Trout in the Classroom program. Another lady who owned Moses Mill Farm in Chatham allows students from Averett, who are trained as VA Save Our Stream monitors through DRBA, to test the waterway that flows through her property. I love that we are deeply connected with citizens, businesses and organizations in the Dan River Basin.



Anna - I have been in full recreation mode this summer with paddle classes, trail workdays, and river cleanups! I take a minute to pause on an experience in our first Stand Up Paddleboard Safety Class. In class, we felt comfortable enough to share our challenges in the water. There was an older gal who shared a common fear that she was worried about falling in and not being able to get back on the board. The instructor was able to navigate their challenge by providing them with the right tools and strategies to get on the board again (hint: it does not involve a large amount of upper-body strength). By the end of the evening, everyone had confidently jumped off their board, into the water, got back on their board, and stood up! It was an evening that I have reflected on frequently during the summer. While we cannot know everyone's full challenges, we can help them become more confident through experiences. I am grateful for everyone who has supported our paddle safety events and look forward to another summer of safe paddling!



Regina – After listening to the monarch presentation with her parents, this little girl from Patrick County went outside and found a monarch pupa in the waystation.

Tiffany – One of my favorite moments from the past few months was sitting in a Virginia Mayo River State Park master planning meeting and hearing about the progress being made toward its official designation. This park is a vision of DRBA's founders, T and Lindley Butler that spans over two decades. With several other people, T & Lindley began working on this shortly after DRBA was launched in 2002. To know it's now so close to becoming a reality was deeply moving. I was reminded that perseverance matters, and that when a cause is worthy, people will come together to carry the vision forward, even across decades. So many individuals have embraced this dream as their own, myself included, pushing through obstacles to keep it alive. If all continues on track, this park will soon open to the public as a true state park that will be enjoyed for generations to come. It was a powerful reminder that nothing is impossible when people are committed to a shared purpose.

Melissa - I am loving doing the Trex recycling challenge this year. I have gotten all my friends and family involved in the challenge. We all try to use reusable bags when we can, but this challenge has made us all very aware of the plastic discarded every day. They all bring me their recyclable plastic and I gather it together and once a month take it to one of the drop off locations. It makes me so happy to keep all that plastic from going into the landfill!



Kensley - One of my favorite moments was handing out the trout to students from schools participating in Trout in the Classroom. They raised them from eggs to fingerlings and were about to release into the Smith River. Their excitement and enthusiasm for this project were evident in these moments, and I was grateful to be a part of it!



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Harold Setliff
Phyllis Smith
Ward Stone
William Sweeney
Lee Templeton
Catherine Van Noy
Melinda Ward
Fletcher & Ginger
Waynick
Brian Williams
S Wolen

River Legacy Circle

Peter Jonas & Kathleen
Anderson
Valinda Dyer
Robert Huffman
Laura Frazier & Andrew
Hynes
Vince Joyce
Wayne & Betty
Kirkpatrick
Donald Lampe
Graham Park III
Edwin and Alice Penn III
Ronald Rebman
Lynn Regan
Brian and Patty Williams

Donations

Kathryn Converse
(in honor of Wayne and
Betty Kirkpatrick)
Mike and Jane Haines
(in honor of T Butler)
Janet Nelson
(in memory of Donald Lee
Campbell, Jr.)

Butler Legacy Fund

Donations

Tom and Glory Butler
Norma Reed

Environmental Education Fund Donations

Norma Bozenmayer
Valinda Dyer
Tim Goetz
Norma Reed
William Sweeney

Municipal Memberships

City of Eden
City of Reidsville
Henry County, Virginia
Rockingham County
Town of Madison
Town of Mayodan
Town of Milton
Town of Stoneville
Town of Wentworth

Eco-Ambassador Council Donations

Blair Construction, Inc.
Clark Gas & Oil Company, Inc.
Frith Construction
Hooker Furnishings
Pickle and Ash

Thank you!

To
support
DRBA,
scan the
QR code.



Things to Do in the Basin

Check out the new trail guides

Piedmont Legacy Trails partnered with local counties to curate trail guides for the public. These guides share information such as trail length, accessibility, photos, and trailhead addresses.

Scan the QR codes to discover your next hiking adventure.

Rockingham County



Caswell County



Take the “Reach the Peaks” Challenge

Join Stokes County Arts Council on Saturday, October 18th, in supporting over 10 local groups at the Reach the Peaks Trail Race. This 10-mile race is a great way to challenge yourself. Whether you hike, walk, or run it, you’ll surely have a beautiful view!



Explore the Rivers

Winter is coming, so get out on the water while you can! **Take a paddle** (or stroll) down the river! If you haven’t been on an FSO this summer on the river, we have a few more chances.

We often get asked about **fishing** in the Dan River Basin, so here are some options:

- Explore our Trophy Trout Stream, the Smith River
- Catch some great bass on the Staunton
- Find catfish on the Dan

Never been fishing in the Dan River Basin?

Want expert advice? Look for fishing guides near you!



Photo courtesy of
Smith River
Outfitters

Have you tried **river snorkeling**? We have staff and volunteers look at the health of the river through macroinvertebrates in our rivers.

While we do this for scientific purposes, some explore waterways just for fun. There is a whole new world that many have not experienced, just underwater! If you have an underwater viewer, a snorkel mask, or even goggles, you can take a peek at what’s going on in your creek and streams!

(We are working to scout unique areas with mostly clear water and accessible in our region.)



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR DRBA ACTIVITIES

First Saturday Outings

FSOs are free, beginner-friendly, and open to the public. You **must** supply your own boat and lifejacket for paddle trips.

- September 6th
 - 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Dan River paddle in Rockingham
- October 4th *
- November 1st *
- December 6th *

*For updates, sign up for DRBA’s newsletter or follow us on Facebook.

Community Events

- 6th Annual Festival Latino of Southern Virginia (SoVaLa)
 - September 13th, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, at Patrick & Henry Community College*
- Stokes Stomp
 - September 13th, 9:30am - 6:00pm, in Danbury, NC*
- 22nd Annual Eden RiverFest
 - September 19-20, Eden, NC*
- Flotsam Flotilla Clean-Up
 - September 20th, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, in Halifax, VA
- High Rock Trail Cleanup Day
 - September 26th, 9 am to 12 pm
- Oktoberfest
 - October 4th in Martinsville, VA*
- Rooted in Martinsville Tree Giveaway
 - October 4th at the Virginia Museum of Natural History
- Apple Dumpling 5k
 - October 18th in Stuart, VA.

*Come visit the DRBA booth.

Classes

- Stand Up Paddleboard Safety Class
 - September 13th at Mayo Lake Park (register with GetOutdoors)

Answer key:

1. Feet 2. Wings 3. Antenna 4. Proboscis 5. Scent gland spots
The male is in picture 1.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A FRIEND OF DRBA!

Dan River Basin Association

P.O. Box 305

Eden, NC 27289



You can protect nature from
anywhere, anytime.

Give Today at
www.danriver.org/how-you-can-help