



# CURRENTS

Dan River Basin Association

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Mission Accomplished!

Service • Education • Stewardship • Partnerships • Recreation  
Our Future

# Currents • Volume 22 • Issue 3

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# DRBA Annual Celebration

## Dr. Spencer Tassone, Keynote Speaker

Close to one hundred guests attended the Dan River Basin Association's Annual Celebration held at the Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) in Martinsville, VA on Saturday, June 3.

Spencer Tassone, a Postdoctoral Scholar in the Department of Biological Sciences at Michigan Technological University, discussed how climate change is impacting the frequency of heatwaves in rivers, estuaries, and coastal sediments throughout the United States. Dr. Spencer's research has helped to inform public policy by partnering with the Chesapeake Bay Program on a Science and Technical Advisory Committee that focused on examining the ecological implications of rising water temperatures and developing management strategies to address these challenges.

DRBA staff members Tiffany Haworth, Melissa Mericle, Krista Hodges, Brian Williams and Anna Wheeler spoke about a number of the projects for 2023. The newest projects include the Volunteer



Environmental Educators training that is expected to

launch in August, the renovation of M.C. Martin Park in Danville, VA, and stewardship activities such as Trash Trout and cleanups throughout the watershed. Haworth noted that these projects depend on the help of the board of directors, the close to 1,000 volunteers and the donors who support DRBA.



The event also included a musical performance of "Song of the Dan" written and performed by Angela Upchurch and accompanied by her son Jameson Harris. Upchurch resides in Milton, NC and has been inspired to write storytelling songs as an entertaining way to share the town's history.

Chris Adcock announced the 2023 DRBA Annual Awards -- DRBA's Service Awards were presented to Jessica Driver, Valencia Abbott, and Keith

Elliott. The Volunteer of the Year award was presented to Sonya Wolen of Danville, VA. (please refer to page 2)

Guests enjoyed lunch at local establishments and returned to the P&HCC campus to attend the ribbon cutting at the Patrick & Henry County Beaver Creek Campus Trail, a new 2+ mile trail

constructed to connect to the existing P&HCC Loop Trail. The trail project was funded by the Eco Ambassador Council. (please refer to page 14)

The Annual Celebration event ended with more than 30 people enjoying a hike on the new trail. Everyone who attended the hike received a free DRBA t-shirt.



*Celebrating 21 years!*



## Mission: Service

### DRBA Volunteers

**are very special people!**

No one has a more generous nature or endless energy than those who give their time to DRBA. We are pleased to recognize just a few of these special people who have made such a difference in the basin.



#### 2023 Service to DRBA Award

This award is given to one or more individuals who stand out as a volunteer during the year. These special folks have truly gone above and beyond for DRBA and our basin over the last year.

**Valencia Abbott** serves on many nonprofit boards throughout North Carolina; one of those organizations is DRBA. She has been an invaluable resource in directing and implementing DRBA's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan. She applied for and received the Abolitionist Teaching Network grant which allowed funding for organizations to concentrate on an area of special needs. She invited DRBA to be one of those organizations and the funding allowed us to hire a consultant and provide enhanced programming and activities for youth and people with hearing and vision impairments.

This greatly improved our ability to reach more people and to assist them with an opportunity to learn about, to enjoy, and to protect our natural resources. Thank you Valencia!

**Jessica Driver** has been monitoring a local waterway as a DRBA Citizen Water Quality Monitor since 2015, and has recently become our local Virginia Save Our Streams volunteer trainer. She started DRBA's Family Friendly public events and she has participated and planned several cleanups in the region. She frequently does her own cleanups, upcycles some of the items she finds and sells them -- donating the proceeds toward environmental education supplies. She has created dozens of environmental education videos and programs. Look for her as she represents DRBA at the many festivals throughout the region.



#### Keith Elliott

Keith's volunteer work has impacted DRBA on multiple levels – he has become an invaluable resource as a guide on outings, he is a first-call volunteer for anything related to outdoor recreation, and he is a great asset at any construction/maintenance site. Truly one of the most dependable and hard-working volunteers, Keith is not afraid to get dirty! He joined DRBA's volunteer army just a few years ago, helping with the construction of the Woodland Trail at Spencer Penn Centre and has volunteered again and again with other trail building days and cleanups. He joined the CWQM program, the Outing Task Force and often offers to help plan and guide DRBA's First Saturday Outings. Keith is dependable, his work is exceptional, and he is an all-around nice guy.



#### Volunteer of the Year

DRBA's Volunteer of the Year Award is presented to an individual who goes above and beyond to serve, promote, and actively participate in our organization.

**Sonya Wolen** is a long-time supporter of DRBA. She has served as both the Vice President and President of the Board of Directors and continues to serve as a member of the board. She serves as co-chair of DRBA's Program/DEI Committee and has taken the lead role in implementing DRBA's DEI Strategic Plan. She often volunteers to man a booth at festivals, to provide an environmental education program, or to participate in a DRBA workday. She is constantly on the lookout for new program ideas, staff development opportunities, potential partnerships, and volunteer recruitment.



## DRBA Partnership Award

Presented to an organization, municipality or state organization that has shown dedication to DRBA's mission through collaboration, participation and collective action.

**Tourism Development Authority of Rockingham County (TDA)** has been a partner to DRBA for close to two decades and has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in funding to help promote recreation in Rockingham County while serving as a model for like organizations in the region. They funded the Settles Bridge River Access cleanup and invested in repairs to make it safe for boaters. Jacobs Creek Batteau Landing Park and a master plan to connect the Mountains to Sea Trail with the Beaches to Bluegrass State Trail would not have been completed without their generous funding.



## DRBA Corporate Award

This award is given to one or more businesses or civic organizations that have helped DRBA achieve a project or service that would not have been likely to occur without the resource leveraging of the partnership.



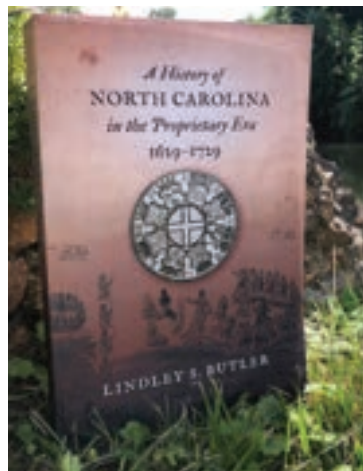
**Pickle & Ash** is a very special establishment that has provided funding for two rain barrel workshops. They step up to plan events and donated both their time and the refreshments for the ribbon cutting event at the IC DeHart Trail System. Pickle & Ash is the newest member of the Eco Ambassador Council which funds regional recreational, educational and stewardship focused projects. The business is owned and managed by Anna Lester who is a force for positive environmental change and a model of an environmentally-conscious and proactive business leader.



## Butler's Book Receives Prestigious Award

Lindley Butler's book, *A History of North Carolina in the Proprietary Era, 1629-1729*, was recently selected for the North Caroliniana Society 2022 Book Award. This award is given to a book that "makes a positive contribution and appears to have the best chance of

standing the test of time as a classic volume of North Caroliniana."



T Butler was present to receive the silver cup given to award winners and stated, "Our family is deeply grateful to you, the North Caroliniana Society, for your support of Lindley's career and for honoring this book, his life's work, and his final contribution to North Carolina history."

Both T and Lindley Butler were founders of the Dan River Basin Association in 2002. Lindley passed away in 2022 but lived long enough to see the book published by the University of North Carolina Press.

Congratulations, T and Lindley!

*Our task was to select the title published last year which we expect will stand the test of time as a work of North Caroliniana. The Proprietary Era is one where historians fear to tread. Indeed, no writer has prepared a comprehensive work on the period since R.D.W. Connor a century ago. The period is little understood and difficult to research.*

Mike Hill, NC Archives and History  
Chairman, North Caroliniana  
Selection Committee

## Mission: Education

### Eco-Blitz, Trout Release, and Every Kid to Parks!

Second grade students from Albert Harris Elementary recently released around 40 trout into the Smith River while also learning about water quality and river ecology -- a culmination of the Trout in the Classroom program and the Every Kids to Parks program. A trip to Philpott Lake followed where they participated in an Eco-Blitz with hands-on activities including water quality testing, a mini bio-blitz, a litter clean-up, and a study of the history of Philpott Lake. High school AP Biology students from Martinsville High School assisted with the program by providing volunteer manpower for each learning station.

The immersive outdoor experience to the park, programming from DRBA, and the many activities were funded through an Every Kid to Parks Small Grant through the National Park Foundation. The grant allowed students to transform their local park and major waterway into outdoor classrooms, giving them the opportunity to connect classroom instruction to real-world experiences with natural resources in their own community.

DRBA wrapped up its 15th season of Trout in the Classroom with eleven schools releasing trout into the Smith River. Native brook trout and brown trout were released by elementary and high school students from North Carolina and Virginia schools around the basin.

Sontag Elementary's fifth grade students got an extra treat at their trout release. After testing the water temperature of the river to confirm that it was near the same temperature of their tank they were excited to see the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources on the bank releasing adult trout into the river right before their fingerlings.

### Fostering Outdoor Stewards

Thanks to the Every Kid Outdoors Small Grants program from the National Park Trust, nearly 50 trees were planted along Boaz Creek in Stoneville, NC. Over 180

fourth grade students participated in the STIC program by rooting native black willow trees in the classroom.

The tree stakes were delivered to the classrooms in April where they rooted over the next four weeks. Students journaled the changes of the trees by recording growth of the roots and the leaves. They also cre-

ated tree models to enhance their learning about tree parts. Finally, on their planting day in May, students took a field trip to the nearby park to plant them along the stream.

In the classroom, students also learned about the effects of pollution on waterways and how human impacts cause issues such as erosion. During the Planting Day, students took an all-day field trip to Stoneville Park where they rotated through environmental learning activities and planting their trees. Natural resource partners from around the basin joined in providing hands-on learning for the young students. Stations were manned by representatives from the Dan River Basin Association, Dan River Keeper, US Army Corps of Engineers, Museum

and Archives of

Rockingham County, Agricultural Extension for Rockingham County, Mayo River State Park, and Stormwater SMART. Debbie's Catering in Stoneville provided a discounted picnic style lunch for all volunteers.

The STIC program is a hands-on environmental education program that edu-

cates students on the importance of streamside vegetation, also referred to as a riparian buffer, and the positive impact it has on water quality. "Riparian buffers keep our rivers and streams healthy by reducing runoff and bank erosion and they also provide habitat for wild-



*It was great to work with our partners, Dan River Basin Association, to expand the STIC program into North Carolina. I love to see these local kids enjoying the outdoors, while learning how to be good stewards at the same time. I like the direction our partnership is heading. The community involvement, and the growth we are experiencing together is truly something to be proud of.*

*Dillon Brown  
Interpretive Park Ranger  
Philpott Lake.*

*My son planted a tree at the park that day and showed the entire family on Mother's Day when we had a picnic in the park. He will remember that forever.*

Steve Pulliam  
Parent

life. Streamside vegetation not only benefits water quality and wildlife, but also people,” says Krista Hodges, DRBA’s Education Outreach Manager. “Streamside Trees in the Classroom encourages each of us to become better stewards of our most valuable resource, water.”

The Dan River Basin Association and the US Army Corps of Engineers partnered to pilot the Stream-

side Trees in the Classroom (STIC) program in three Rockingham County, NC schools this spring -- Dillard Academy, Huntsville Elementary, and Stoneville Elementary. All within a 15-minute drive of Stoneville Memorial Park, where the trees were planted.

Teachers that participated in the program said the students enjoyed Planting Day and that their favorite part was planting the trees.

## Growing Kids & Trees

As a part of the Growing Kids & Trees and the Department of Forestry Urban and Community Forestry Assistance grant, students planted native river birch trees along the Smith River at the Great Road Access in Fieldale, VA. Students from Williamsburg Elementary and Magna Vista High School planted 10 trees along the river to help improve water quality and the riparian buffer. A special speaker from Virginia Tech, Mr. Jason Fisher, District Extension Agent, spoke to the students on the important uses of trees and the need for enhanced riparian buffers along streams, especially those with trout populations.



Both of these schools participated in the Trout in the Classroom program and released their trout on the same day into the Smith River. This gave the unique experience to further protect the water resource in which their trout will thrive and reproduce.

## It's all about the Butterflies!

The fourth Monarch Waystation in the Dan River basin is being installed at Martinsville High School. The waystation is funded by Dr. David Jones of Jones and Deshon Orthodontics and Dr. David Jones of Roanoke Valley Orthodontics. The waystation was planted in

June by MHC After 3 high school students from Martinsville High School, Magna Vista High School and Bassett High School as part of their community service following their completion of summer camp. The students planted a variety of native cultivars -- including common milkweed, butterfly weed, coneflowers, black-eyed susan, bee balm, and coreopsis -- in the raised bed.

The goal of the waystation is to provide food and resources to support the entire life cycle of the Monarch butterfly, from egg to caterpillar and finally back to a butterfly, and to support them during the migration from Mexico. The milkweed is of course the most important to the Monarch butterfly as it is the only source of food for the caterpillars. They must have it to survive and thrive and to create a chrysalis.

While the planting of the plants is the most critical part to getting the waystation going, there are still a few things that need to be done to complete the project. An interpretive sign and waystation certification sign will be installed later this summer. Once everything is completed, a ribbon cutting will be held in the late summer or early fall.

*While Trout in the Classroom is the cornerstone favorite environmental education program of the Dan River Basin Association, DRBA now encompasses many more amazing programs that are intertwined with Trout in the Classroom. Students that participate often times are involved in Educating the Next Generation program, the Growing Kids & Trees project, and Streamside Trees in the Classroom. DRBA's environmental education programs now stretch far and wide across the basin, and across the scope of environmental education.*

Krista Hodges, Education Outreach Manager

## Mission: Stewardship

### M.C. Martin Park – A Community Effort

A local park is getting a much need facelift thanks to a number of organizations willing to make a difference. For decades, a small parcel of land in the City of Danville served as a gathering place, a sledding hill, and a play area for the local residents and visitors. In 2019, the city erected a marker there to acknowledge Maceo Conrad Martin's role in the success of First State Bank and in its profound impact on local economics, the Civil Rights Movement, and the banking industry as a whole. Over time, the bridge that crossed the creek and a gazebo often used by picnickers disintegrated and today all that is left are two picnic tables and a parking lot. Along the way, the site has become a dumping ground for trash.

The Eco Ambassador Council (EAC) was the first to pledge matching funding of \$8,500 to get the project started. The surrounding community and descendants of M.C. Martin partnered with Danville Parks & Recreation

and the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) to raise funds to match the EAC donation to re-establish a welcoming space for the families and residents at the park.



*. . . I hope that his legacy - both commemorated and echoed through the new vision for M.C. Martin Park - will be an ongoing source of inspiration for others . . . He sought no limelight, but worked with integrity and courage to bring about change. This Park to me is a physical display of what his community meant to him, and in turn, what he meant to this/our community.*

Paula K. Martin Smith  
Daughter, M.C. Martin

The makeover started with a community cleanup event and construction of a trail along the creek begins this summer. Interpretive and historical signage, storm drain markings, benches, and an observation deck along the trail overlooking the creek will be constructed by year's end.

The park is and will continue to be maintained by the City. This project is special because the neighborhood has embraced the historical significance of this park and has taken steps to bring their vision to reality.

*"M.C. Martin Park has needed attention for years, and we were thrilled when DRBA and members of the surrounding community proposed this project. Individuals from around the country donated to make this project a reality in addition to the Eco Ambassador Council. This truly has been a labor of love, and it is exciting to get started on it."*

Stephanie Lovely

Facilities and Services Planner of Danville Parks & Recreation

### Dick and Willie Passage Grows and Land is Preserved

Our beloved rail trail, the Dick and Willie Passage, is growing! Thanks to a major land donation from a local family, the surrounding land is being preserved for future generations to enjoy.



The first phase of any trail project is determining location, purpose and ownership. It is imperative that you either purchase the land or obtain easements on which to build the trail. Sometimes, in the course of perusing the permissions, you run across a generous land owner interested in contributing to the local community. While developing the route for phase 6A of the D&W Passage, the Dan River Basin Association and Henry County met with the Dyer family.

Hugh and Catherine Dyer, formerly of Henry County, had left over 200 acres to their family members who now live across Virginia, North Carolina and New Jersey. The county purchased a strip of land from the Dyers for the trail and the family generously chose to donate the remainder to the

Southern Virginia Land Conservancy.

The donated land will buffer the trail and help maintain the natural environment along the route. The new section is currently under construction and slated for completion in 2024. It runs along Mulberry Creek and is surrounded by lush forest.

The Southern Virginia Land Conservancy, established in 2019 as a branch of Roanoke's Blue Ridge Land Conservancy, protects rural land and water in Patrick, Henry, Pittsylvania and Halifax counties, and the cities of Martinsville and Danville. DRBA staff contributed to the development of the SVLC and sits on the advisory committee for the conservancy. For information on the Southern Virginia Land Conservancy, or land donations, visit [svalc.org](http://svalc.org).



## P&H CC Beaver Creek Nature Trail

It's been a busy Spring, but the new Patrick and Henry Community College Beaver Creek Trail has been completed! Another great addition to our community was officially opened June 3, 2023 as DRBA held its Annual Members Celebration and celebrated National Trails Day.

The two-mile loop trail covers a variety of diverse habitat and connects to the existing Peninsula Trail. It winds down from the Frith building on the P&HCC campus through young growth pine forest, along and through the bottom land below the reservoir dam, and along Beaver Creek to the road.

The Master plan for Rivers and Trails in Henry County includes a project to develop a trail around the entire eight-mile shoreline of the Beaver Creek Reservoir. In 2010, DRBA constructed a trail on the peninsula just east of the Frith Building, which was partially on the P&HCC campus with the remainder owned by the city of Martinsville. This one-mile trail was a shoreline loop. On the opposite side of the lake, the Rock Ridge trail was created in 2011 with funding from the Harvest Foundation. The completion of the Beaver Creek Trail adds trail miles to that project.



The project was funded by the Eco Ambassador Council and was a partnership with P&HCC. With the help of Facilities Manager Roberta Wright and her staff, a new switchback trail allows an easier return uphill to the trailhead. Eco Ambassador Council volunteers stepped up and helped cut a new section of trail that connects over to the existing peninsula trail. They also helped install signage, cleared brush along the route, and cleaned up the arboretum loop. Volunteer Keith Elliot helped in building the wetlands observation boardwalk and later led the first official hike on the newly developed trail.



*"Patrick & Henry Community College is extremely grateful to DRBA (Dan River Basin Association) and the EAC (Eco Ambassador Council) for their efforts in creating the P&HCC Beaver Creek Campus Trail. .*

*. . . yet another incredible community asset on the campus of P&HCC. Our students and the communities that we serve will enjoy the fruits of this work for decades!"*

Greg Hodges, President, P&HCC

Future plans for the trail system will include student participation -- adding new trails and maintaining the existing trails and the arboretum loop. "The students here have to have so many volunteer hours and we have taught students here the art of trail-building in the past, so this is one of the things that we want to utilize here," stated Hodges.

"People who knew about it have already been coming, but now it's more open to the public and we want people to come out and utilize it. You've got the water, you've got the woods, and you've got people here that want to learn about it. I'm hoping that this project will help spur interest in developing a volunteer group of trail builders that can continue the trail around the lake as easements and funding are obtained," said Brian Williams, Dan River Basin Association Virginia Program Manager.

## Mission: Partnerships

While you may (or may not) know, 2023 is Year of the Trail in North Carolina!

It was proclaimed last June by Governor Roy Cooper and started with a BLAST in Rockingham County -- including the County Commissioners adopting Year of the Trail in December 2022 and City of Eden in January, 2023!

The Trails Day weekend event, held April 21 - 23, was co-hosted by the City of Eden and the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources who selected the city to be highlighted along with eleven other municipalities to celebrate Year of the Trail in a big way! Planning, conducted the winter before, included many hands throughout the county and the state.

Friday kicked off the entire weekend with a Celebration of Trails in our County. Hosted by Reynolds Brewery, the public enjoyed live music, ax throwing, food, and refreshments along with many friends and colleagues. The public was invited to ask partners, like Rockingham County Tourism and Dan River Basin Association, questions about trails and river accesses and to enjoy a few giveaways. Eden mayor, Neville Hall, said it best, "This is a joint effort between the county, the city and the state, and the people (in the planning group) have made this event something that we are all looking forward to. We have some beautiful trails and look forward to everybody enjoying those and exploring the new options that we have."

The night ended with a guided hike from NCD CNR's Joe Miller, who led many along the beautiful Smith River Greenway.

While Saturday was supposed to be full of guided hikes, paddles, and the event *Sip, Shop, and Celebrate*, the rain made for other plans. When the rain held off, we still enjoyed *Sip, Shop, and Celebration* in Uptown Eden held in partnership with Eden Chamber of

## Trails Day Weekend in Eden, NC was a happening place!



Commerce. Visit RoCo and DRBA were able to reach out to an entirely different group to share about all things rivers and trails in Rockingham

County! Meanwhile, Saturday's hikes and one paddle were moved to Sunday.

Sunday consisted of a few hikes. One was at Mayo River State Park, where hikers met at Deshazo Falls and enjoyed hiking in two state parks -- the NC Mayo River State Park with Superintendent Sam Koch AND Supervisor Adam Layman representing the future VA Mayo River State Park. Adams later led a hike to Byrds Ledge, where the state line meets at a rock formation in the North Fork of the Mayo River. Next, hikers enjoyed a stroll on the recently extended Lake Reidsville Trail led by Joe Miller and Lindsay Pegg. Chinqua-Penn hikers enjoyed hearing Lee Templeton stop and talk about that trail and the Smith River Greenway was a hit once again when many hikers were hosted by Joe Miller.

Paddlers, were not to be dismayed! Our wonderful blueways in Rockingham County were loved. While a beginner paddle trip hosted by City of Eden and volunteers from DRBA was canceled, paddlers with their own boats enjoyed a change of scenery when they launched from the new Eden Game Lands access! We enjoyed paddling down to Leaksville Landing with our new friends and enjoying the view of the Fieldcrest smoke stack. Thank you to DRBA volunteers: Keith Elliot, Tom Taylor, Wayne Kirkpatrick, and Chris Adcock who led the way.

Trail Town Weekend introduced many folks to the opportunities Rockingham County offers and encouraged them to explore and get excited about trail culture in their community. Our community partners are to be commended for this great weekend. Trails and river accesses in many of these areas would not be what they are without their support.

*Our Mission:  
To protect and promote the Dan River Basin through  
recreation, education and stewardship.*

## Membership Survey -- What's on Your Wish List?

DRBA needs your input! The Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC) is working with the Dan River Basin Association in Rockingham and Caswell Counties to identify and understand the greatest needs for water quality in the region's rivers, lakes, and streams.

A ten-question survey has been developed for community members to share how they feel about their experiences on the Dan River in Rockingham and Caswell Counties and the watershed. Through this survey we hope to gain a better understanding of what is important to you. What areas do you want to see improved through land conservation, water quality protection, recreation, and/or stewardship?

This information will highlight needs in this area and be used for important work on our Corridor Study.

Scan the QR Code to submit your survey. If you would like a paper copy or pdf version, reach out to NC Program Coordinator, Anna Wheeler at

awheeler@danriver.org.



## Annual Dan River Cleanup was a success!

With many cleanups one might define its success by how much trash was acquired (1,200 lbs), or how many people showed up (12), or how many community partners were present (4). And that is important -- but in this article, I want to focus on the community development that grew during this cleanup.

It was a mild May morning with the sun just peeking out from behind the clouds. We had been anticipating this day for a few months now and we were there to prepare

our river for the many boaters that were to paddle for a podium finish at the Dan River Boat Race scheduled for the next weekend (due to rain it has been rescheduled for August 12, write it down!).

As I prepared for this day I was full of excitement, because I knew the people joining us would have as much



fun as I did on my first cleanup. Packing up the litter pickers and the trash bags, and ensuring everyone had gloves was the top priority. It was important to make sure our volunteers would be comfortable and well-equipped for this 3-mile paddle down the Dan River from Madison River Park to the 704 Water Street Access in Downtown Madison. As volunteers arrived, everyone introduced themselves and following a quick safety briefing and supply check, the paddlers were off while others enjoyed a hike along the new Madison River Park Trail to cleanup litter that had been exposed during construction.

Paddling upstream from the park was great fun; the fish weirs at the park made a great start to the paddle and provided a little adventure. We checked out the higher water areas where trash bags were caught in trees and later contemplated who would be the first through the rapids!

Throughout the rest of the paddle, volunteers reflected on how much trash was found -- aluminum cans, tires, and even a cell phone (spoiler: it does not work.) Teamwork was essential as we worked to pick up old tires and rid them of sand and former DRBA board President Will Truslow paddled tires from pickup to Keith Elliot's jon boat! While we had an end goal of cleaning up the river, we also learned more about each other and made friends along the way.

After a fruitful day cleaning up the river, volunteers joined together for a social hour with snacks and drinks at a local shop in Downtown Madison.

Friendships were made and partnerships were strengthened through this cleanup. Thank you to all who joined!



*...our recent river cleanup was a fantastic experience, a wonderful opportunity to engage with our community partners, meet new people, and more importantly, providing an eye-opening experience of the lasting effect that trash has on our environment and natural resources.*

Lindsay Pegg  
Volunteer

### Trailblazing Out at Chinqua-Penn Walking Trail

On a beautiful, sunny, and warm Saturday morning in June over 20 local vendors, non-profit organizations, and artists showcased their talents and wares at the Chinqua-Penn Walking Trail in Reidsville, NC. Saturday morning, June 17th, the open area near the trailhead was full of colorful tents, fun kid activities, and a couple of local food trucks. Visitors could savor



delicious food from various vendors, peruse local art to discover unique creations, and learn about the incredible non-profit organizations dedicated to making a difference in our community.

DRBA staff members and volunteers participated in the event by manning an informational tent. The Chin-

qua-Penn walking trail is very popular among members of the community, which was obvious that day as there was a continuous stream of visitors to our tent learning about DRBA, and asking questions about river and trail safety.

Later in the morning, visitors hiked the trail and had the opportunity to speak with and ask questions of the many folks stationed strategically along the trail. The volunteers answered questions about the trail's nature, the Chinqua-Penn Estate and its rich history, and the valuable work carried out by the Upper Piedmont Research Station at the trail.

The Friends of Chinqua-Penn Walking Trail organized the event. To find out more about the Friends of Chinqua-Penn Walking Trail visit their website:

<http://www.chinquapenntrail.org/>



### From the Director

For over 20 years, we have heard from parents that their children return home from a DRBA program or activity excited with their new-found knowledge showing more independence and greater self-esteem. There are now volumes of research showing what we've always known -- being in nature is one of the *best things* for our youth. Outdoor education and awareness provides an opportunity to practice social and leadership skills. It reduces stress, enhances creativity, and promotes both short-term and long-term physical and emotional health.

DRBA's environmental education (EE) programs make a positive impact for almost 10,000 youth a year, and we want to reach even more. Every year, DRBA has a waiting list of teachers asking us to include our EE programs in their classrooms. Unfortunately, there isn't enough funding or staff to serve them all. One solution may be the Volunteer Environmental Educators (VEE) Certification Program being developed by Krista Hodges, DRBA's Outreach Education Manager, that will launch this August.

Help us share this opportunity by donating to our Environmental Education Fund. The impact will be immeasurable for each and every young person given the opportunity to learn about the conservation and the protection of our amazing natural resources through DRBA's EE programs and activities.

**Tiffany Haworth, Executive Director**

## April FSO: Dan River Paddle

DRBA's April 1, 2023 First Saturday Outing, a paddle from Snow Creek Access to Hemlock Golf Course Access on the Dan River in Stokes County was cancelled due to the anticipated weather.

## May FSO: Dan River Paddle (for real!)

The FSO in May was a miracle day. A day on the river that wasn't supposed to happen. The forecast was for rain, all day!



The forecast was so consistent that the trip was cancelled and then at the last minute rescheduled when the forecast changed late on Friday.

Saturday dawned clear and beautiful. Eight paddlers who either never read the

website and didn't realize that it was cancelled or read it so often that they learned it was back on, showed up to paddle the Dan from Pitzer Rd to the Hemlock Golf Course. Shortly after leaving the put in, a bald eagle confirmed the magic of the day gracing us by flying over more than once and dropping a feather. The weather was perfect for paddling -- comfortable and clear; the water level higher than normal making route finding reasonably easy, but with enough riffles and rapids to keep things interesting without anxiety. The one canoe in the group (with this writer) had the sole mishap and flipped; reminding us that rivers have power and should be respected. With the help from other paddlers, we were soon on our way again. Sightings of soaring hawks overhead and a great blue heron flying near the river surface added to the magic and beauty of the day.

Many thanks to Wayne and Keith who shepherded us safely to the take out, which came too soon as we could have spent much more enjoyable time on this beautiful section of river.

Dee Edelman

## June FSO: Beaver Creek Nature Trail & More!

The quiet snip of the shears is all you heard when the improvements to the Patrick & Henry Community College trail system were unveiled! Laughter, friendships, dogs, and fun followed as folks hiked the trail at our June First Saturday Outing.

Keith Elliot, led us through the magnificent additions to the P&H trail system - but not without first reminding us about trail safety! Keith explained that the map had guidelines and important tips for hiking on this trail, and reminded hikers to take a picture of the map before they went out exploring.

We merged with a road bed where hikers were able to spread out and enjoy the spaciousness of an old maintenance road bed and the pups were delighted to walk side-by-side with friends. Conversations throughout the hike included the interesting landscape, Beaver Creek, the vast grassy entrance of P&H, the quiet pine forest, and the college's arboretum. Keith highlighted the new wayfinding signage throughout the trails that include a reference map and a 'YOU ARE HERE' indicator for users to enjoy.

Hikers enjoyed the hard work of our partnership with P&HCC, where they were able to assist with the mechanics of trail construction. Hikers returned to the Frith



Building, and enjoyed a cool drink brought over from our Annual Celebration.



Memberships 4/1/2023 - 6/30/2023

**River Legacy Circle**

Robert Huffman  
Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick  
Edwin and Alice Penn  
Chris and Len Poirier  
Tom and Robin Taylor

**Steward Membership**

Marcus and Sarah Brinks  
Jay Donecker  
Deborah Horning

**Family Membership**

John and Joan Barnes  
Mr. and Mrs. William Black  
Lucas Conkle and Rachel Saylor  
Bruce Thompson  
Jared Thompson

**Individual Membership**

Michael Amos  
Elizabeth Bailey  
Chase Davidson  
Regina Flora  
Melissa Hairston  
Bob Mason  
Nancy C. Slate

**Sustainer Memberships**

Chris Adcock  
Kathryn Converse  
Mark Estes  
Tiffany Haworth  
Judith Jones

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

**Municipal Memberships**

City of Eden  
Town of Mayodan

**Corporate Caretaker  
Membership**

Intertape Polymer Group

**Donations 4/1/2023 - 6/30/2023**

Michael Amos  
Rachel Beneke  
in memory of Jim Tobin  
Ken and Luann Bridle  
in memory of Milton D. Hundley  
Mark Estes  
Amy Farinelli  
Peter and Melissa Hairston  
Tiffany Haworth  
Michael Jones  
Donald Lampe  
Carla Moore  
Catherine Van Noy  
Jo Proia  
Alan Raflo  
Bailey Stanley  
James and Debbie Taylor Stokes  
in memory of Ralph Shank  
Denzil Turner

**Donations to the M.C. Martin  
Park Project**

Carolyn Bruce Evans  
Charlotte Vinson Foster  
Richard Jeffery  
Jena York Jolley  
Delores Martin  
Paula KM Smith  
Eddie Vinson  
Ella Vinson  
Linda Vinson  
Paul Vinson  
Robert Vinson  
Steven Vinson  
Teresa Vinson  
Steve Welch

**Corporate and Organization  
Donations**

AmazonSmile  
Iperion X  
Kroger  
Wells Fargo Foundation

**Chinqua Penn Trail Donations**

Ann Brady  
Craig Cardwell

**Eco-Ambassador Council 2023**

Blair Construction, Inc.  
Frith Construction  
Hooker Furnishings Corporation  
Pickle and Ash  
The Lester Group



The Eco Ambassador Council (EAC) is a group of regional businesses that wish to combine their community investment to support environmental projects that increase tourism and economic development now and preservation of these precious resources for future generations.

“The Eco Ambassador Council has collectively invested more than \$60,000 from member donations while leveraging more than \$100,000 in additional community based funds into seven projects throughout the region since 2020,” said Tyler Carter, Chairman of the EAC and Community Reinvestment Administrator at Carter Bank & Trust. Its memberships include Blair Construction, Carter Bank & Trust, Clark Oil & Gas, Frith Construction, Hooker Furnishings, Jones & DeShon Orthodontics, Lester Group and Pickle & Ash.

Businesses located in the Dan River watershed are invited to join the leadership group year-round. For more information, please contact

Tyler Carter, Carter Bank & Trust  
Tyler.Carter@CBTcares.com or 540.493.0582

## About National Park Trust

For over a decade, National Park Trust has been a leader in youth outdoor programming and recognizes the lack of transportation to outdoor spaces as one of the most significant barriers to kids getting outside and experiencing nature.

This grant supports the Every Kid Outdoors program, a federal youth initiative designed to provide every 4th grader in the United States the opportunity to visit public lands and waters with their family at no cost.

The great outdoors is an excellent classroom, and the Park Trust and the USDA Forest Service are partnering to provide the experiences that will help kids establish lifelong connections with nature and become the next generation of park stewards.



## Department of Forestry

The Growing Kids & Trees project through the Department of Forestry is designed to encourage projects that promote the protection and enhancement of urban and community forest ecosystems including tree plantings, care of trees and education on trees at a local level. DRBA has participated in the Growing Kids & Trees project through Virginia Tech for the last four years.



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



## Calendar of Events

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>July 1:</b>      | <b>FSO at Townes Lake</b>  |
| <b>August 5:</b>    | <b>Paddle the Mayo and Dan from 135 Bridge<br/>Mayodan to Jacob's Landing Access</b> |
| <b>August 12:</b>   | <b>Smith River Cleanup (TBA)</b>   |
| <b>August 19:</b>   | <b>Smith River Fest</b>  |
| <b>September 2:</b> | <b>Beaver Creek Reservoir</b>  |
| <b>October 7:</b>   | <b>Paddle the Dan from Draper's Landing<br/>to (near) Berry Hill</b>                 |