

Celebrate Earth Week with DRBA

This Earth Day, DRBA invites you to spend an entire week turning inspiration into action along the waterways, trails and communities of the Dan River region.

On April 20, we're kicking off the Dan River Conservation Series, a weeklong celebration of Earth Day, generously sponsored by the [Eco Ambassador Council \(EAC\)](#) and filled with events designed to help you get outside, get your hands dirty and gain a deeper understanding of the Dan River watershed and the vital role it plays in our shared ecosystem.

Join us in celebrating Earth Day all week long by learning more, doing more and protecting the places we love. Together, we can turn awareness into action... And action into lasting impact for generations to come.

Dan River Conservation Series: Turn Inspiration Into Action April 20 – 25, 2026



Generously sponsored by:



Dan River Conservation Series: Turn Inspiration Into Action

Monday, April 20 – Connect & Commit Kickoff Day

Kick off DRBA's Earth Week with a day dedicated to community action and environmental stewardship. Today we're launching Clean-up Week. Gather some friends and family and do a quick cleanup in your community, DRBA's got you covered with supplies. Learn more about [DRBA's Clean-Up Crew program](#) to find out how to get started. Also, be sure to check your inbox for DRBA's e-newsletter all week and follow us on social media to get inspired!

Tuesday, April 21 – Protect & Preserve Day

Day two of DRBA's Earth Week focuses on protecting natural resources and preserving land for future generations. Join us for a special ribbon cutting and trout release, along with informative workshops on conservation easements in North Carolina and Virginia. Discover practical ways to safeguard your land and support long-term environmental health.

- **Conservation Easement Workshops** - Join us for a virtual workshop where our speakers will cover the fundamentals of land conservation and explore the various tools available to protect land, with a special focus on conservation easements. Learn what they are, how they work, their environmental and financial benefits, and how landowners can determine whether a conservation easement is the right choice for them.

Understanding Conservation Easements in North Carolina

Speaker: Palmer McIntyre, Conservation Planner, [Piedmont Land Conservancy](#)

Date & Time: 4/21/26 @ Noon | [REGISTER HERE](#)

Understanding Conservation Easements in Virginia

Speaker: Chris Holdren, [Southern Virginia Land Conservancy](#)

Date & Time: 4/21/26 @ 6:00pm | [REGISTER HERE](#)

- **Urban Forest Interpretive Trail Ribbon Cutting** – Come out for the Urban Forest Interpretive Trail Ribbon Cutting at the Great Road River Access in Fieldale, VA. This project was generously funded by the Eco-Ambassador Council and the VA Department of Forestry. The ribbon cutting will follow with a trout release. Anyone who would like to stay and watch are welcome! Registration required. [LEARN MORE](#)

Wednesday, April 22 – Happy Earth Day!

Celebrate Earth Day with DRBA by learning how to support monarchs and other pollinators through our Lunch with DRBA webinar and native plant spotlight. Join a community cleanup, explore the Lawn Grown Wild project and enjoy fun, family-friendly activities that inspire everyone to take part in protecting our environment.

- **Lunch with DRBA: All About Monarch & Monarch Waystations** | 4/22/26 @ Noon | [LEARN MORE](#)
In this pre-recorded Lunch with DRBA webinar, you'll learn all about the amazing Monarch butterfly, what it needs to complete its life cycle, monarch waystations and how you can have your own pollinator garden become certified.
- **Clean Up in Eden** | Matrimony Creek Nature Trail | 4:00pm- 6:00pm | [More info & Sign-Up](#)
Join us in Eden, NC (home of DRBA's headquarters) for a cleanup at Matrimony Creek Nature Trail. Help remove trash and protect this scenic waterway while enjoying a peaceful trail featuring a creek, small waterfall and historic mill ruins.
- **Lawn Grown Wild Project** | **Join us 4/22 or 4/23!** | [LEARN MORE](#)
DRBA's Lawn Grown Wild project encourages individuals and communities to transform traditional lawns into thriving habitats for pollinators and wildlife to help support biodiversity, conserve water and create healthier ecosystems. Stop by our Danville office and pick up your free seeds and sign a pledge to make an impact!
- **Monarch Lifecycle Kids Activity**– [DOWNLOAD](#) our one-of-a-kind coloring page and encourage learning through art!

Thursday, April 23 – Celebrate Water Day

DRBA's Earth Week Celebration keeps the momentum going by honoring our most important resource: WATER! Dive into a few virtual workshops, help us reach our stretch goal and take DRBA's Water Pledge and sign-up for DRBA's paddling safety classes—because water is not just for drinking and protecting, it's for having fun too!

💧 **Where does your water come from?**

This engaging virtual workshop explores where your water comes from and how it is protected. The session will also highlight simple actions you can take to help protect local streams and rivers.

Speaker: Mike and Melinda Ward, Henry County, VA Public Service Authority

Date & Time: 4/23/26 @ Noon | [REGISTER HERE](#)

💧 **Best Practices for Tree Care Virtual Webinar**

Forestry is both a science and an art, and like the various interdependent relationships you find out in the woods, one can't be without the other. If you were to walk into a room full of foresters, more than likely you'll hear a dozen different responses on how things should be managed and some agreements, or disagreements from folks with different backgrounds. There is one thing in common in that room, though. Any good forester with a good base of knowledge and passion for what they do will stop to hear what the forest has to say about itself and go from there. This presentation will provide an overview of what natural resource professionals consider and look for when getting to know a management area as well as go over what landowners should keep in mind when they take a look at their own woods.

Speaker: Rachel Kim, Virginia Department of Forestry

Date & Time: 4/23/26 @ 11:00am | [REGISTER HERE](#)

💧 **[Take the Clean Water Pledge!](#)** It only takes 2 minutes but hopefully it will inspire you to do simple things to help keep our waterways healthy. Help us reach our goal of 3,000 pledges by the end of Earth Week. Share, share, share the link!

💧 **Paddling Safety Class Sign-Up!** | [LEARN MORE](#)

DRBA's offering free paddling safety classes across Virginia and North Carolina again this year. These classes are designed both for beginners and experienced paddlers. Learn essential skills like proper gear use, river reading, self-rescue techniques and how to stay safe on the water. These hands-on classes are a great way to build confidence, improve your skills and enjoy the region's rivers responsibly.

Friday/Saturday April 24 & 25 – Community Stewardship Days

Join DRBA for the final two days of our Earth Day celebration, check out a short video highlighting some very cool ways you can stay involved year-round. Then head out to a cleanup event near you and get dirty with DRBA helping to restore trails in the region.

💧 **How you can keep the momentum going after Earth Week with DRBA** | [LEARN MORE](#)

Learn how you can stay involved after Earth Day in this pre-recorded stewardship webinar with DRBA's Krista Hodges, Director of Environmental Education. This session highlights ongoing ways to protect local waterways through programs like CWQM (Citizen Water Quality Monitoring), River Watch and Nitrate Watchers. Join us to discover simple, meaningful actions you can take year-round to help keep our rivers and streams clean and healthy.

💧 **Clean-Up Events in VA** – Bring your gloves, sturdy shoes and some water and get dirty with DRBA helping to remove trash and debris from our Virginia trails and parks. There's no better way to wrap up Earth Week than coming together to protect and restore the outdoor spaces we all enjoy and get inspired to keep the momentum going!

City of Martinsville | Friday, April 24 | 4:30pm – 6:00pm | Martinsville Reservoir | [More info & Sign-Up](#)

Henry County | Saturday, April 25 | 10:00am – Noon | Fieldale Trail | [More info & Sign-Up](#)

Franklin County | Saturday, April 25 | 1:00pm – 3:00pm | Waid Park | [More info & Sign-Up](#)

Other Regional Events

April 18

- **Native Plants and Pollinators** | Fairystone State Park, Stuart, VA | [LEARN MORE](#)
Pollinators are essential to the survival of people and ecosystems, working in close partnership with native plants. Come out and learn how they're connected and how we can support them.

April 20

- **City of Danville Earth Day Celebration** | Danville, VA | Registration Required | [LEARN MORE](#)
Learn more about how you can Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle to help save our planet. Make your own recycled art and participate in "Recycling Our Reads" book swap by bringing in a gently used age-appropriate book to swap.
- **Earth Day Craft: Create Your Own Forest Fairy** | Fairystone State Park, Stuart, VA | [LEARN MORE](#)
Join a ranger for a fun Earth Day craft making beautiful woodland fairies that you can take home for your garden.

April 21

- **Bee City Campus** | Walker Fine Arts & Student Center, Patrick and Henry Community College | 11am - 1pm
Patrick and Henry Community College is working to become a Bee City USA Campus and is hosting an event to spread awareness regarding pollinator-friendly practices. Stop by the DRBA booth while you're there!

April 22

- **Upcycle for Earth Day** | Danville, VA | Registration required | [LEARN MORE](#)
Learn how to upcycle, turning everyday household items into something new and improved. Ages 18 and up.

April 24

- **Magic Trees** | Fairystone State Park, Stuart, VA | [LEARN MORE](#)
Discover the "magic" of trees as a ranger uses tricks to reveal how they grow, heal, support themselves, contribute to the economy, and are impacted by invasive species.
- **Reptile Festival** | April 24 – 25 | Virginia Museum of Natural History, Martinsville, VA 24112 | [LEARN MORE](#)
Make plans for a jam-packed reptilian adventure for the whole family to enjoy! Marvel over extraordinary live reptiles and amphibians and see species never before exhibited. You'll even be allowed to touch select animals!

April 25

- **18th Annual Earth Day Extravaganza** | 209 S Main St, Halifax, VA | [LEARN MORE](#)
Join us downtown for a fun, family-friendly Earth Day celebration featuring hands-on activities, local vendors, and simple ways to support sustainability while exploring and shopping local.
- **Halifax County Community Clean-up** | In your neighborhood | [LEARN MORE](#)
Town of Halifax is hosting Clean Up- April 25th (on your own time) We encourage participants to recycle items that qualify! You can find a list of Halifax County Recycling Centers [here](#). Pick up your free orange trash bags at a Halifax County location near you!

All Week: April 20 – April 25

- **Semi-Annual Litter Clean-up Day** | Pittsylvania County, VA | [LEARN MORE](#)
Individuals, families, civic groups, churches, youth groups and more are invited to participate in this event and can select areas and roadways of their choice during the week. The 2026 clean-up culminates on Saturday, April 25, 9 am to Noon, at a location within each district, where bags and vests can be picked up and results can be reported. Those who want to participate are asked to fill out the sign-up form, sign the waiver and watch a safety video by VDOT.