



Fishing Pole Pack & Paddle (Spring 2026)

FFV State Officers

President: Herb Coleman

herb@clachanproperties.com

Vice Presidents:

- Tony Adams: antonadams@comcast.net
- Bill Duncan: wduncan311@yahoo.com
- Rick Mattox: rickmattoxrva@outlook.com
- Ginnie Peck: ginniepeck@gmail.com
- Bill Tanger: riverdancer1943@gmail.com

Secretary: Loren Jacobs

lorenjacobs32@yahoo.com

State Treasurer: Mitch Sims

mitchsims@yahoo.com

Chapter Treasurers, please e-mail deposit amounts to Mitch, each time you deposit in State Account.

Membership Chair: Erica Goode

**Chapter Treasurers, please e-mail updated membership info to Erica @:
ffvbusiness@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Gabby Safley

gabby.safley@gmail.com

Webmaster: Traci Martin

traci.martin1970@gmail.com

Conservation Chair: Bill Tanger

riverdancer1943@gmail.com

Annual Dues: Due January each year

- \$25.00 per Individual or per Family (spouse & children 0-18)
- Individual chapters may have additional annual dues.
- Contact your CHAPTER Treasurer to pay dues
- Please, DO NOT send dues to Membership Chair or State Treasurer

Chapter Treasurers:

George Dickel Chapter: Ginnie Peck

dickels.treasurer@gmail.com

Randy Carter Chapter: Ed Galloway

ewgalloway@verizon.net

Roanoke Valley Chapter: Bill Tanger

riverdancer1943@gmail.com

Scotts Creek Chapter: Rick Mattox

rickmattoxrva@outlook.com

Steve Keller Chapter: INACTIVE Contact Ginnie

President's Paddle

Greetings FFV family,

Happy Spring!! I know everyone is itching to get back out onto the river.

To kick off this year's paddling we'll be heading to "Solitude" for Memorial Day Weekend (May 23-25th). Also remember that Memorial Day comes early again this year so mark your calendars accordingly. BTW, we're also in need of a band. Please reach out to me with any potential prospects.

The next upcoming trip will be the Kids Float and the date is set for Saturday June 6th. Thanks again to Erica and her team for making this event such a special day for both the kids and the Club members. I think they're in the final stages of working out the details so keep an eye out for an update email. It's also important to mention the need for volunteers!! It's a fun day on the river and such a great cause.

On a housekeeping note, Chapter Presidents remind your members that annual dues have increased from \$20 to \$25. And that all members should be current on their dues.

One final note, unfortunately I'm going to miss this year's Memorial Day Float as I have a previously scheduled family vacation. But, I know you'll be in great hands with Rick Mattox and Scott McEwen. As always, don't hesitate to reach out with any ideas or feedback. And remember to bring a friend.

See everyone soon!!

— Herb Coleman



Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2025

Courtesy of Rick Mattox

Call to order: Herb Coleman

Herb called the meeting to order at 11:00 am

Secretary Report (Approve Minutes):

Loren Jacobs

A motion to approve the Labor Day meeting minutes was made, seconded and passed.

Treasurer's Report: Mitch Sims

-According to Mitch, over the past 12 months there are receipts of \$4,870 and disbursements of \$3,860, leaving a checking balance of \$10,505. This includes the transfer of \$2,190 from the Kid Float fund, as decided at the Labor Day meeting. The CD balance is \$10,352. The CD is drawing an interest rate of 3.3% with a maturity date of 8/21/2026.

-Christin Henderson has volunteered to be treasurer. The transition from Mitch to Christin should take place by Memorial Day Weekend.

Membership Report: Erica Goode

-Membership is currently 155. This is a reminder that dues will increase to \$25 in 2026.

Newsletter Report: Gabby Safley

-Continue to send articles and photos to Gabby to publish in the newsletter.

Webmaster Report: Traci Martin

-Traci and Gabby were looking at options besides GoDaddy to service our website as the cost has increased over the past couple of years.

Conservation Chair Report: Bill Tanger

-The No Tires Bill is the focus for the upcoming General Assembly session. Bill is searching for a sponsor. Last year's sponsor has opted out. Several of the river access project are on-going.

FFVA Foundation Report: Bill Tanger

-Allen's Creek:

- Amherst County has conducted a reassessment of county real estate values which has seen a significant increase in property values. The assessment of our Allen's Creek Property has increased from \$38,200 in 2025 to \$60,960 in 2026. The county may vote to lower the tax rate from its current \$.61 rate.

- Please send any recommendations for the Randy Carter Award with justification to Rick Mattox.

Trip Schedule:

- Dickel Spring Fling: 4/17-4/19 Peck's property

-R5 Cajun Weekend: 4/24-4/26

-Memorial Weekend: 5/22-5/25

-Location: Solitude

-Por-o-Johns: Bill Tanger

-Band/Dinner?: Christie Ramsey

-Budget: \$600

-Kids Float: Tentative 6/6

-\$500 for lunches

-Labor Day Weekend: 9/4-7

-Location: Slate

-Port-o-Johns: Ginnie Peck

-Band/Dinner?: Rick

-Budget: \$600

- Dickle Bash: 9/18-20

-Location: Slate

- Frisco: 10/22-25



Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2025

Courtesy of Lauren Jacobs

Old Business:

I read a letter from Bill Duncan notifying us that he is resigning as FFV VP and as Director on the FFV Foundation Board. Much thanks to Bill for serving on the FFV and Foundation Boards and especially for consistently participating in our annual gatherings.

New Business:

None.

Adjourn:

- The meeting adjourned at around 10:48 am.



Herb Coleman Scholarship Application

On the following page you will find the Herb Coleman Scholarship application.

Eligible applicants may complete the application and return it to the address listed at bottom of the application.

Qualifications for eligibility are listed at the top of the application.



Remembering Mac McClellon



Mr. McLellon was a long time member of the FFVA. "Those who knew Mr. McLellon well, were aware of his contributions and long membership in the Float Fisherman of Virginia, a statewide canoeing and fishing group. He and his wife Lois were editors for four years of the Fishin' Pole, Pack and Paddle monthly newsletter."

To read the full obituary please use the following link:

https://www.sturtevantfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Richard-Soule-McLellon?obId=47318463&fbclid=IwZnRzaAQFuRpleHRuA2F1bQlxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZA8xNzM4NDc2NDI2NzAzNzAAAR4Twa3bNoKC3aa3Vch1PIAOz8WX4cLWe1b4aXesA36DTQVha61e620kXrLo2w_aem_Q5UwFNrp8WM2pivkOvJA7g

The family will be spreading his ashes at Rucker's Run during the Memorial Day Float.



Currents & Eddies

April 14, 2026

Courtesy of Bill Tanger

Allens Creek (on James River) in Amherst County: Working on property improvements including cabin restoration, insulation and infrastructure upgrades. ----- Allens Creek gang: Bill Tanger, Howard Kirkland, Mo Byrd, Ben Carter, Ava Smith, Bob Penn and more.

Big Otter River: Access development in Bedford County. Working on the Bells Mill access. Legal issues with missing deeds. May have a chance to buy at around \$20,000 ----- Bill Tanger, Tom Phillips, Meade Anderson; Friends of Big Otter

New River - Price Park (Montgomery County): Working on purchase of additional land for a new entrance and a new parking lot. Volunteers welcome. --- Randi Lemmon, Bill Tanger and Rick Roth.

Blackwater River (Franklin County): New access site on the Blackwater River at Blue Bend. Eagle Scout kiosk now finished. New ramp and parking lot put in. Just put on sale 3 of the 4 acres to cover our initial costs. ----- Bill Tanger; FFV: Pat & Ray Williams; Creek Freaks of Franklin County.

Blackwater River (Franklin County): New access site on the Blackwater River at Booker T highway (Rt 122);

new road to river, new parking lot, new kiosk. Bill Tanger, Ray Williams, Pat Williams, Creek Freaks.

James River – Balcony Falls Take-out (Amherst County): FORVA is reaching out to Amherst County for their support as called for by the US Forest Service. --- Bill Tanger, FFV

Roanoke River (Salem): Tucker Lane stormwater problem; lawsuit filed 1/12/26 against Salem City. Hearing on July 31. ----- Bill Tanger, Terry Grimes.

Holston River watersheds - public access: we have filed suit in Smyth County to re-open a road into the Mt Rogers NRA, Holston River tributaries, and AT. Have a partial victory. Now working with the USFS to resolve road maintenance issue. ----- Bill Tanger, Sidney Osborne

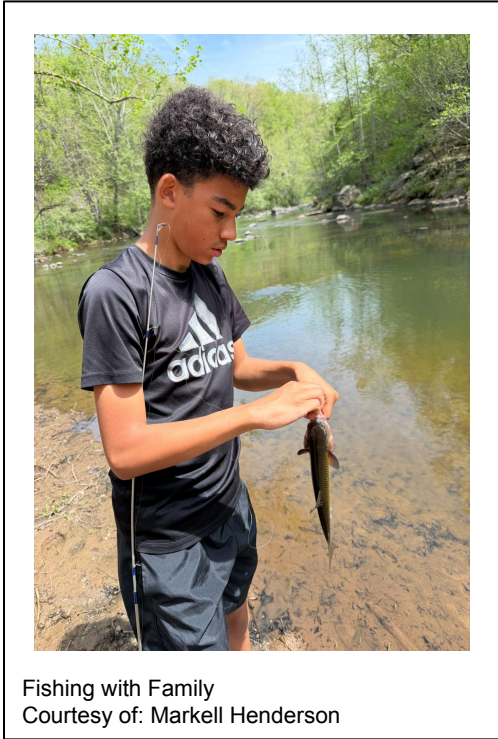
Statewide: No Tires in the Rivers legislation: In 2025 our bill was combined with another bill and effectively tabled for year. Our new plan is to get more localities to do a resolution of support before we go back to the legislature. Need volunteers! ----- Bill Tanger, Charles Ware and FORVA board members.



New access road, parking area, and ramp on the Blackwater River in Franklin County. Located at the Rt 122 bridge crossing (Booker T Hiway)



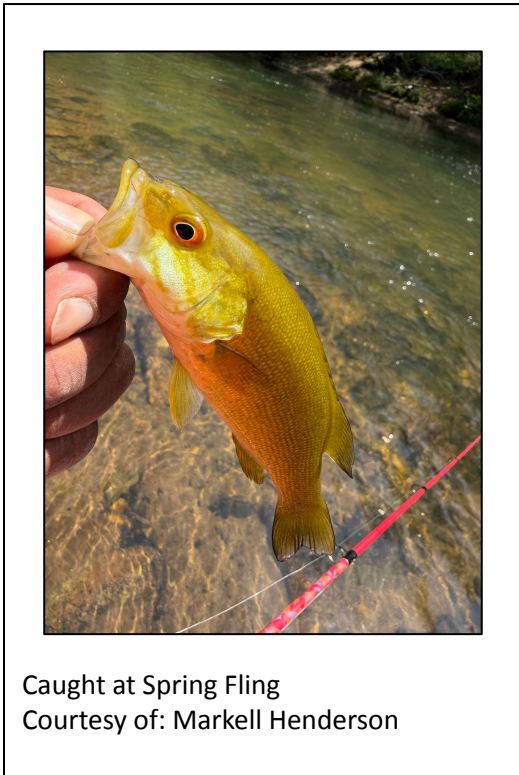
A Float Family



Fishing with Family
Courtesy of: Markell Henderson



A Night at Spring Fling
Courtesy of Markell Henderson



Caught at Spring Fling
Courtesy of: Markell Henderson



2026 FFV Event Schedule

Event/Location:	Date:
Memorial Weekend	May 22 - 25, 2026
Location: Solitude	
Kids Float	June 6, 2026
Labor Day Weekend:	September 4-7, 2026
Location: Slate	
Dickle Bash:	September 18-20, 2026

Solitude Directions:

Address for GPS: 1571 Solitude Road, Buchanan, VA 24066

From Charlottesville: Follow I-64 West to I-81 South. Then follow I-81 South to Exit 168 (Arcadia) Turn Left on Arcadia Rd (Rt. 618) Turn Left on Solitude Rd. (Rt. 622) Camp will be on the Left.

From Bedford: Follow US 460 West to US 220 Then follow US 220 North to I-81, Follow I-81 North to Exit 168 (Arcadia) Turn Right on Arcadia Rd (Rt. 618) Turn Left on Solitude Rd. (Rt. 622) Camp will be on the Left.

From Amherst: Follow VA Route 130 to Natural Bridge, Then follow US 11 South to I-81 Then follow I-81 South to Exit 168 (Arcadia) Turn Left on Arcadia Rd (Rt. 618) Turn Left on Solitude Rd. (Rt. 622) Camp will be on the Left

From Roanoke: Follow I-81 North to Exit 168 (Arcadia) Turn Right on Arcadia Rd (Rt. 618) Turn Left on Solitude Rd. (Rt. 622). Camp will be on the Left.

Editor's Note

The opinions expressed in FPP&P are those of the author's and not necessarily those of FFV or its members. The editor is responsible for editing the content of the newsletter and its construction. Members are responsible for providing content. Please send submissions to the editor via email attachment. The following formats are preferred: Word, RFT, and/or JPEG. The newsletter goes out quarterly: Feb 1, May 1, August 1, Nov 1. **All Submissions MUST be received by the 15th of the preceding month.**

If you receive this newsletter via US Mail, we do not have a current email address for you. Contact your local treasurer or the Membership Chair to update your information.

FFV Membership Chair
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Shipman, VA 22971