



Fishing Pole Pack & Paddle (Summer 2026)

President's Paddle

Hello FFV family!!

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer season. Maybe all this rain we've been getting has allowed boaters to get back out on the rivers. I missed seeing everyone at the Memorial Day Float this year. Sounds like the weather didn't cooperate either. But apparently folks made the best of it and went into Buchanan to the local brewery where I heard the beer was flowing.

I want to give Erica, Ginnie, and their team a heartfelt thank you for putting together the Kids Float again this year. The amount of work and coordination that goes into pulling this off is really impressive. I know the kids and the volunteers had a blast!! For me and I'm sure many others, this has become one of the most memorable events of the year.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the Slate River property this coming Labor Day. We've got a fun weekend planned with live music Sunday night this year instead of the usual Friday night event. Also, a barbecue buffet is planned that will be hosted by Mike McEwen. BTW, donations are welcome and should be made out to the Slate River property.

On a housekeeping note, remember that we have a business meeting Sunday morning at 9am Labor Day weekend. We'll be electing officers for the next term. We'll also be presenting the Randy Carver award to a worthy recipient.

Finally, don't hesitate to reach out with any ideas or feedback. And let's get out there and talk up our Club to new prospects. Look forward to seeing everyone in several weeks.

----- Herb

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



Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2026

Courtesy of Ginny Peck and Rick Mattox

Call to order: Herb Coleman

Herb had a family conflict and was not able to attend the meeting.

Rick Mattox presided and called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. I introduced the newest member of the Scott's Creek Chapter, Emma Elizabeth Mattox, born February 11, 2026, daughter of Trey and Emily Mattox.

Secretary Report (Approve Minutes):

Loren Jacobs

Loren was unable to attend. A motion was made and seconded to accept the December minutes as published in the Spring newsletter. Thanks to Ginnie Peck for agreeing to take minutes for this meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Mitch Sims

Mitch was unable to attend. I will ask Mitch to email a copy of the Treasurer's Report to be distributed to the membership.

Membership Report: Erica Goode

Erica reported that we have 51 members. Bill Tanger reported that he has an additional 50 from the Roanoke Chapter. Bill also reported that we have 12 new members as a result of river access at the Allen's Creek property.

Newsletter Report: Gabby Safley

No report. Gabby would appreciate receiving articles and photos to be published in the newsletter.

Webmaster Report: Traci Martin

No report.

Conservation Chair Report: Bill Tanger

Bill reported that FORVA is involved in several lawsuits regarding river access and conservation. He also reported on potential litigation for access on Craig's Creek. He also reported that Pat Williams and the Creek Freaks are working on Pigg River access. Bill has formed a group called Conservationist for Macy to support Beth Macy in her congressional campaign to unseat the incumbent. Bill is also working on the potential purchase of land for access on Big Otter.

FFVA Foundation Report: Bill Tanger

Bill is seeking someone to volunteer to replace him as president of the Foundation. Bill reported that the county tax assessment for the Allen's Creek property increased substantially from \$33,400 to \$60,960. After Bill contested the increase, the county contact, who happens to be a paddler, agreed to decrease the new \$60,960 to \$38,400. The Foundation received an application for the Herb Coleman Scholarship from Tynan Bias. The Foundation agreed to award Mr. Bias a \$2,000 scholarship.

Kids Float Update:

The Kids Float is Saturday, June 6 on the James River with camping at the Slate. Erica reported that 40 kids have signed up for the float. **We need many volunteers to assist.**



Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2026

Courtesy of Ginny Peck and Rick Mattox

Treasurer Update:

Christin Henderson has volunteered to replace Mitch Sims as treasurer. ***Ginnie Peck made a motion to elect Christin Henderson as treasurer, Erica Goode seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to elect Christin as treasurer.*** It was agreed that the transition from Mitch to Christin will be completed by Labor Day weekend, Thanks to Mitch for being treasurer the past few years and thanks to Christin for volunteering to take on this important responsibility.

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

No new business.

Adjourn:

A motion as made a seconded to adjourn.
The meeting adjourned at around 10:00.



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.

***Float Fishermen of Virginia
Herb Coleman Scholarship Application***

Eligibility: High school or college students who are sons, daughters, grandsons or granddaughters of current members of the Float Fishermen of Virginia. Applicants should exemplify the spirit of conservation and appreciation of our free-flowing streams. Applicants should be currently enrolled or admitted to a community college or accredited four-year college or university.

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone #: _____

State name of and relationship with current FFV member: _____

Address of current FFV member: _____

Phone number of current FFV member: _____

What has been your association or experience with the FFV? _____

Name the college or university to which you are currently enrolled or have been admitted:

Please attach the following to this application:

- A copy of your official college and high school transcripts
- A copy of a letter of acceptance or proof of enrollment at a college or university
- A personal letter from the applicant explaining why you are deserving of this scholarship award.
The personal letter should address any of the following areas:
 - Long range career goals
 - Any circumstances that may impact you or your family's ability to provide for your further education
 - Describe any association or experience with the Float Fishermen of Virginia
 - Describe community service or volunteer work in which you have been involved
 - Any clubs, teams and organizations in which you have participated
 - What do you like to do for fun, relaxation or enjoyment?
 - Any experience enjoying Virginia's free flowing streams

Applications must be submitted by May 1st. Scholarship recipients will be selected by Memorial Day. Funds will be awarded by August 1st. The scholarship fund(s) will be paid directly to the college or university to be attended.

Please send your application to:

Float Fishermen of Virginia Foundation
P.O. Box 506, Cloverdale, VA 24077



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)



Price Park under 1 owner

Virginia Tech Foundation donates its share of land to FORVA

Written by: Ethan Hunt, The Roanoke Times - July 31, 2026



The entrance to Harvey Lee Price Park near the Prices Fork community

Both owners allowed public access to the land, which is on the north side of Price Mountain, west of Blacksburg.

Earlier this month, the community rallied alongside FORVA, raising \$160,000 to purchase the Schwesinger Estate's half interest before it went to auction. That acquisition gave FORVA a half interest in the additional 47 acres. The Foundation's donation transfers the remaining half interest, giving the park a single owner for the first time in its 16-year history.

The origins of Price Park trace back to Anne Yates, the granddaughter of Harvey Lee Price, who graduated from Virginia Tech in 1898. Price returned to his alma mater and served as an administrator before becoming dean of the College of Agriculture from 1920 to 1945.

Yates donated the 45 acres that became the original park to FORVA and transferred her interest in the other 47 acres to the Virginia Tech Foundation.

BLACKSBURG — The Virginia Tech Foundation recently donated its remaining half interest in Harvey Lee Price Park to the Friends of the Rivers of Virginia, unifying ownership of the land and preparing it for permanent conservation.

While the original 45 acres of the park were donated to FORVA in 2010, another 47 acres used as part of the park remained jointly owned by the Edmund Schwesinger Estate and the Virginia Tech Foundation.

After learning the park was in jeopardy, Randi Lemmon, acting manager of Price Park and a FORVA board member, said Yates wrote the Foundation a letter urging it to donate the land rather than sell it.

The Foundation agreed. "Anne Yates has been a valued friend and supporter of Virginia Tech and the New River Valley community for many years," said Mark Owczarski, a spokesperson for Virginia Tech. "To honor the community commitment of Anne and her grandfather, Virginia Tech is pleased to transfer its partial interest."

The donation comes as FORVA had continued its fundraising campaign, preparing for the possibility that it would have to purchase the Foundation's interest.

Now, any money raised for the purchase will either be returned to donors or used for improvements to the park, depending on each donor's preference, according to documents shared by Lemmon.



Price Park under 1 owner

Virginia Tech Foundation donates its share of land to FORVA

Written by: Ethan Hunt, The Roanoke Times - July 31, 2026

Owczarski did not disclose what the Foundation's original plans for the land were but said, "As Virginia Tech's research priorities and land-use needs evolve, we regularly evaluate our real estate holdings to ensure they continue to align with the university's mission and strategic goals."

Looking ahead, now that the park has a clear title, FORVA can begin working to transfer the land to the New River Land Trust and secure a permanent conservation easement. Lemmon said that process will likely "take a little while."

FORVA's primary mission focuses on river protection and dam removal. The organization accepted responsibility for the park only as an "interim owner." It now hopes to transfer primary stewardship to a more suitable caretaker.

Park ownership is not FORVA's mission, Lemmon said.

Owczarski said Virginia Tech and its Foundation sought to honor the "community commitment of Anne and her grandfather" when they made the donation.

"We remain deeply grateful for the long-standing contributions of Anne and her family to both our university and the broader region," he said.

Ethan Hunt (540)
381-1678 ethan.hunt@roanoke.com

Price Park – Times – 7-31-26



2026 FFV Event Schedule

Event/Location:

Date:

Labor Day Weekend:

September 4-7, 2026

Location: Slate

Dickle Bash:

September 18-20, 2026

Slate Directions:

Address for GPS: 10330 Bridgeport Road, Arvon, VA, 23004

From Charlottesville: Route 20 South through Scottsville and across the James River. Left onto Route 652 (Bridgeport Road). Follow approximately 9 miles and turn right into field. If you cross the Slate river, you have gone a half mile too far.

From Lynchburg: Take Route 60 East to Route 15N (James Madison HWY). Left on Route 652 and cross the Slate River. Driveway will be first left.

From Richmond: Take Route 6 River Road West (from downtown that's 64 West to the Oilville exit South on 617 Oilville Road). Right on 250 West Broad Street Road. Left on 632 Fairgrounds Road. Right on Route 6, go West, follow to Fork Union. Stay straight on Route 15 (James Madison Hwy), cross the James, after roughly 1.5 mi. Right on Route 652 and cross the Slate River. Driveway will be first 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
794 Farrar Bridge Lane
Shipman, VA 22971