

FISHIN' POLE PACK & PADDLE



Float Fishermen of Virginia

Fall Issue 2009, No. 9

PRESIDENT'S PADDLE

Greetings from Downtown Lakeside

The details of the winter meeting have been confirmed; it will be at the Cumberland State Forest again starting at the new time of 11:00 AM Saturday December 5, 2009. Due to renovations there will be no overnight accommodations and we won't have a fish fry either.

Some of the agenda to be thinking about:

It is always nice of Gary to let us use this beautiful place for free. Anywhere else we would be paying, so be thinking about how much we should donate. Think about how beautiful it will be after the renovations.

It is time to vote on the Randy Carter award, so be thinking about that. Bill has written about the nominees in previous newsletters and spoken at meetings.

It has been proposed that we make Ned Dillon a member in perpetuity and I think that is a great idea, so someone needs to propose that at the meeting.

It seems like we always have the same old farts at the December meeting and seldom do we see some of the familiar younger faces that we see on the river. For you younger faces that didn't know; we decide where the next years floats are going to be. This is the chance for you to nominate your favorite stretch of river and campsite. Sometimes I hear complaints that we frequent the same spots; this is your chance to propose something different.

Come to the meeting and express your views. We decide other important state business for the next year and your vote counts.

See y'all at the meeting,

Don



photo courtesy of Allison Herbert



IN THIS ISSUE...

Labor Day Meeting Notes	2
Conservation Notes	3
Winter Meeting Directions	4

2009 LABOR DAY MEETING

FLOAT FISHERMEN OF VIRGINIA, INC.

President

Don Sims
3020 Kenwood Avenue
Richmond, VA 23228
president@floatfishermen.org

Vice Presidents

Bill Duncan
Ken Ingram
Erica Sims
Richard Webster

Secretary

Linda Van Luik
2771 Summit Ridge Road
Roanoke, VA 24012
secretary@floatfishermen.org

Treasurer

Katherine Waller Boyd
4422 Wakefield Road
Richmond, VA 23235
treasurer@floatfishermen.org

Conservation

Bill Tanger
P.O. Box 1750
Roanoke, VA 24008-1750
(540) 366-2228 H
bill.tanger@verizon.net

Membership

Beth Willoughby
5112 Linsey Lakes Drive
Glen Allen, VA 23060
membership@floatfishermen.org

Webmaster

Bob Born
524 Columbia Ave.
Ramseur, NC 27316
webmaster@floatfishermen.org

Newsletter

Allison Herbert
9718 Kendrick Road
Richmond, VA 23236
editor@floatfishermen.org

Secretary's Report

Minutes were accepted as published in "Fishin' Pole, Pack and Paddle".

Treasurer's Report

Submitted in abstencia, the report as read to the attending members was accepted.

Newsletter Report

No report

Conservation Report

Bill Tanger outlined several topics of interest: a letter to the governor on proposed regulations on poultry litter, the 40th anniversary of the state's scenic rivers, power companies considering rivers and creeks as possible sites for hydro plants, dam fatalities on the Blackwater River, and on-going access issues.

In a letter to the governor, FFV joined 49 other groups expressing concern over water quality issues that have led to fish kills. Studies show that chicken litter transported to places away from processing factories may be the probable cause. State regulations are being formulated to address the problem.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation has announced to river groups via letters events celebrating 40 years of Virginia's scenic rivers. Events will take place near the Staunton, Rivanna and the Appomattox.

This issue has not yet affected Virginia, but in other states, power companies are showing interest in using hydro power to generate electricity. Franklin County is working on alleviating some of the conditions that resulted in several deaths on the Blackwater at a low head dam.

Access: December is the deadline for state agencies involved to determine how they will address requests for access across railroad tracks. Those agencies include the Departments of Conservation and Recreation, Rail and Public Transportation, and Game and

Inland Fisheries. In relation to this issue, the FFV membership approved / authorized a letter to be sent to the governor protesting the apparent conflict of interest of a DCR board member who is also a railroad lobbyist.

Membership Report

Rock Willoughby gave the report in the absence of his wife, who was having some health issues. (We hope Beth's doing better now!) Currently membership as of the Labor Day meeting was 234 paid members. Those who still need to pay their dues should send their dues to their local treasurers.

Website

No report

Foundation

It was moved and approved that 10 new Randy Carter statuettes be purchased.

Rick Mattox announced the slate for officers for the Foundation: Bill Tanger, president; Bob Born, Roc Cooper, Don Sims and Rick Mattox as vice presidents; Bob Peck as treasurer; and John VanLuik as secretary. The slate was approved for a three year term. Thanks for Jim Garner for his years of service to the Foundation.

Old Business

The Kids' float was a success, despite being postponed earlier in the summer due to high water and an afternoon storm the day of the rescheduled float. Thanks to Erica Sims Goode for again organizing the event. Twenty-one children had a fun day on the river.

Barbara Green reported that the Roanoke Chapter had a successful first ever Roanoke River Renaissance. Headed by Ken Ingram, the event drew a 100 people to paddle a section of urban water in Roanoke.

New Business

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- Editor's Note
- The opinions expressed in FPP&P are those of the author and not necessarily those of FFV
- or its members. Articles and material for publication may be submitted to the FPP&P editor.
- Preferred format: Email with attachments in Word, RTF, and/or JPEG. Dates for submitting
- material for publication: 1st of February, April, August and November. The Editor reserves
- the right to edit as needed. Comments, criticism and compliments are always welcome.
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LABOR DAY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

None

Announcements

Bob Taylor is giving Brian Vande Sande a January river trip to a hopefully warm locale!

Bill Tanger is retiring from the day job and has begun a new career as editor/writer; he is gathering river stories for a book.

Election of State FFV officers

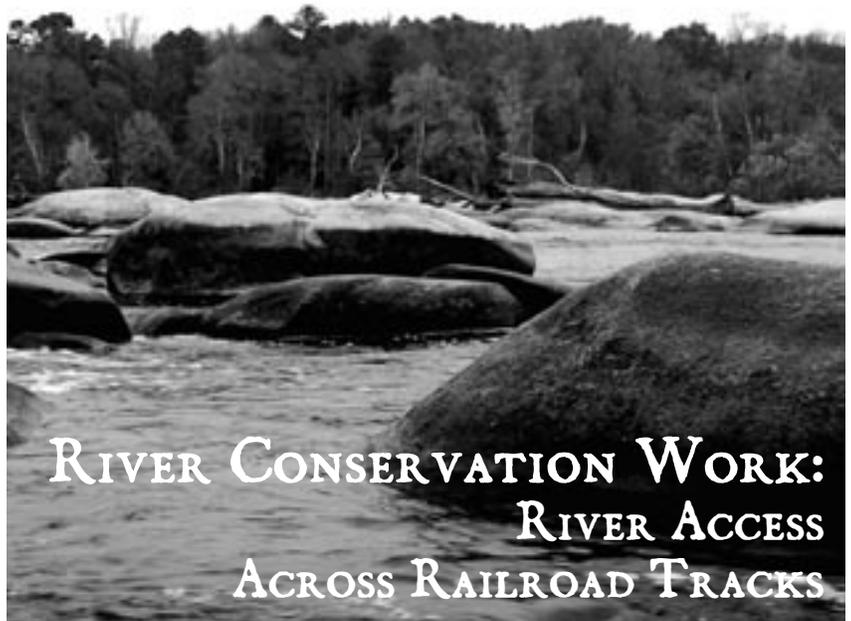
The nominating committee, composed of the past three state presidents--John VanLuik, Bryon Jones and Ginnie Peck, announced as president-elect: Brian Vande Sande,

The current officers will remain, as will those who serve in appointed positions. Officers include: president: Don Sims; vice presidents: Bill Duncan, Erica Goode and Ken Ingram; secretary: Linda VanLuik; treasurer: Katherine Boyd, newsletter editor: Allison Herbert; conservation chair: Bill Tanger; membership secretary: Beth Willoughby; webmaster: Bob Born.

The meeting was adjourned after the state officers were elected.

VINTAGE ISSUES OF FPP&P NOW AVAILABLE

Thanks to former member and newsletter editor Phil Bailey, of Richmond, many issues of the FPP&P have been given to the Float Fishermen for archiving. While they spent many years in an attic, they will be available to members. Anyone interested in any great stories from the 70's and early 80's, please contact Allison Herbert at the next meeting or by emailing questions to: editor@floatfishermen.org



Right now there is a lot going on regarding river access. The draft report on river access across railroad tracks, the result of HB2088, came out on October 26 from the Dept of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT). The deadline was November 4 for comments and the meeting in Richmond was on November 4. Pretty inconsiderate of them to give us so little time, but not unexpected.

In addition, the Dept of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has the Norfolk Southern lobbyist as a member of the DCR Board of Directors, so DCR is effectively muzzled. This conflict of interest problem is another issue in itself that needs public exposure and fixing.

That leaves the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) to help us get a good report to the legislature. DGIF is not generally interested in non-motorized boating, as their funding for access comes from motorboat gas taxes. But I have worked for many years with the DGIF team and I believe they will help where they can.

The Virginia Bicycle Federation (VBF) is helping, but their agenda is somewhat different from ours. Their focus is more on parallel use of railroad rights of way for Rails-with-Trails.

The meeting in Richmond on November 4 was attended by about 20 people. I was present on behalf of FORVA and Jeff Wold of Float Fishermen was on the conference call-in phone. We also had

four bike people, two county greenway planners, six railroad people and representatives of DCR, DGIF, DRPT and the Attorney General's office.

The meeting was contentious, yet we hammered out a process for applying for river access sites. There was consensus in the end on the process, but nagging issues remain on the railroads claims they are still liable under Virginia's Landowner Liability Law. Our position is that with this process, if they grant access they will be less liable and the public will be safer. Not completely free of liability or completely safe; just less liable and more safe. They get mum when pressed on this.

One other final issue regards funding from the Rail Enhancement Fund (REF). Naturally the railroads want the funds to come from somewhere else, but we want REF funds to be used.

In any case, we will do the best we can under these handicaps. At a minimum, we should end up with an official process for nominating river access sites and having them evaluated by DCR and then if approved by DCR, evaluated by a review committee of all interested parties. We need this process made official by the legislature.

Anyone interested in helping on this issue, please let me know
Bill Tanger, Chair



4422 Wakefield Road
Richmond, VA 23235
www.floatfishermen.org
info@floatfishermen.org

2009 STATE WINTER MEETING

December 5, 2009 11:00 AM
Cumberland State Forest



Directions:

From Richmond: Take route 60 west to Cumberland; 2 miles west of downtown Cumberland, turn right on Route 628. Proceed approximate 3 miles to stop sign. Go straight through gate to State Forest building

From Lexington: Take route 60 east to Cumberland; 2 miles west of downtown Cumberland, turn left on Route 628. Proceed approximate 3 miles to stop sign. Go straight through gate to State Forest building

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE MEETING!