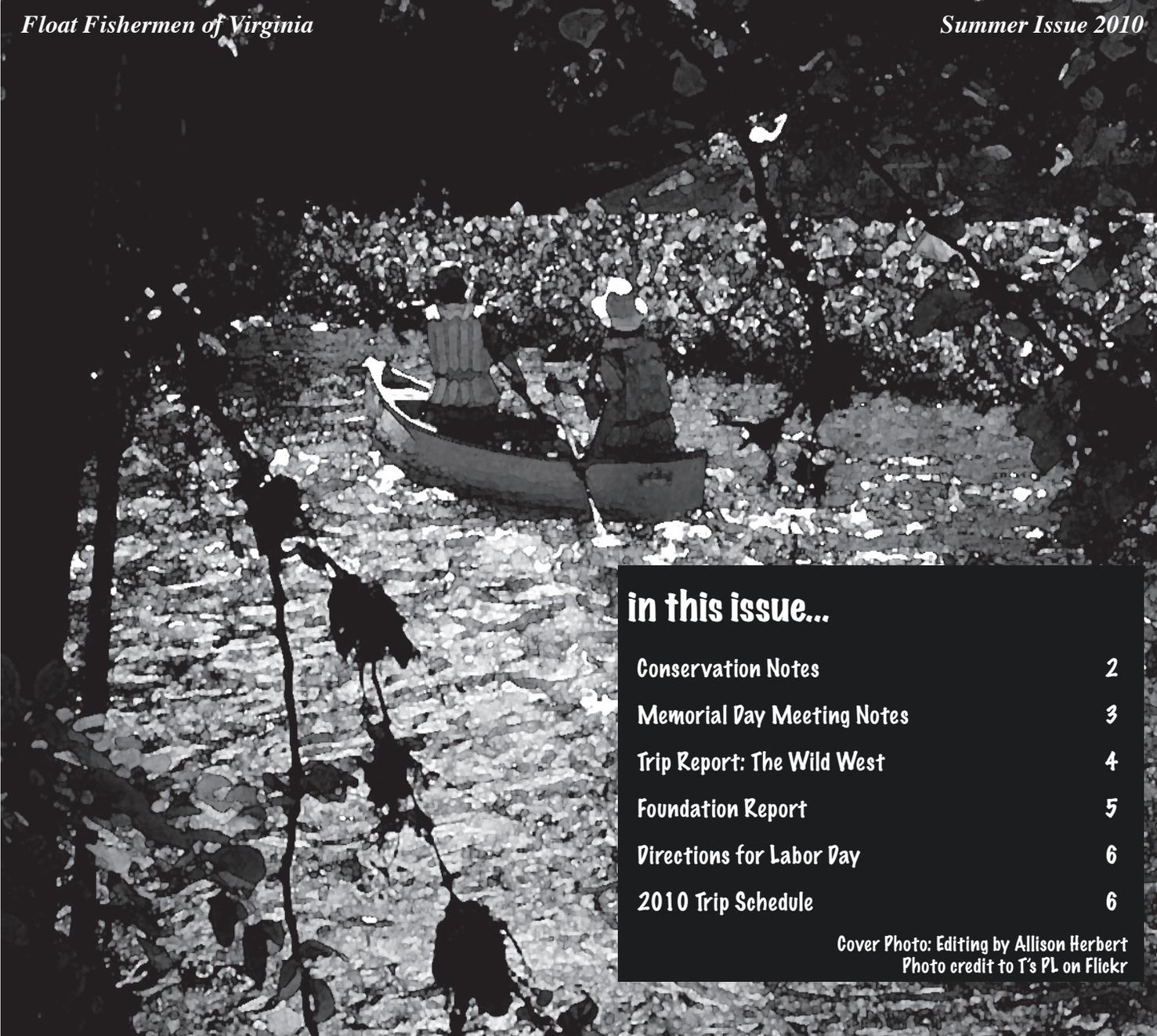




# FISHIN' POLE PACK & PADDLE

*Float Fishermen of Virginia*

*Summer Issue 2010*



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# Conservation News

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### Newsletter

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The Randy Carter Award for 2009 was presented to Tyla Matteson at the Virginia state Sierra Club meeting in Charlottesville on Saturday, July 10, 2010. Tom and Barbara Miller made the presentation on behalf of the Float Fishermen. The award was a complete surprise to Tyla, as we set it up with her husband Glen Besa who was also at the meeting.

Tom did an excellent presentation on the Float Fishermen and read the purpose of the award as an introduction before announcing the winner. There were about 20 Sierra Club members present.

Here is the thank you letter we received from Tyla:

*Dear Tom,*

*What a surprise to receive the Float Fishermen award Saturday! I was totally unaware of this fine award coming my way. It was great to have you and Barbara travel to Charlottesville, to our Sierra Club Chapter ExCom meeting to deliver it, along with your kind words.*

*I have the dynamic replica of the white water canoeist already prominently displayed in our living room and will treasure it. I am in very good company, after reading the list of other recipients, such as Delegate Vic Thomas, Delegate Watkins Abbitt, Shelton Miles, Patti Jackson, to mention a few.*

*The 13 years I worked on the Mattaponi campaign were worth every minute, and we all celebrated last November on the banks of the Mattaponi, when we were victorious. The pristine Mattaponi River is still running free.*

*Thank you for recognizing my efforts. Of course, it was only because so many people preserved for so many years that we finally won! You and Bill Tanger were an important part, with the efforts from FORVA.*

*I would like to send a note of thanks to Bill for his part in my Float Fishermen award, and also to any others, such as the president of Float Fishermen of Virginia. Please let me know who I may thank, and any addresses that you might have, regular mail or email. Thanks again for this very special recognition. I am truly humbled.*

--Tyla

### River Access: James River

A meeting is planned for August 25 in Glasgow with DCR, DGIF, Rockbridge County, the Town of Glasgow, FORVA and the FFV, to discuss the issues around an improved put-in at Locher Landing. The CSX railroad has indicated a willingness to donate or sell about 3500 feet of river frontage to the town, the county or a state agency. The purpose for us would be to improve the access to the James at this site.

There are some concerns about DGIF owning the property as they are not normally stewards

for paddlers, and their focus is mainly on motorized boating. Right now DGIF owns the property adjacent to the CSX property under consideration, so we would need DGIF cooperation for access.

One concern is that DGIF may want to implement a use fee in the future. If the town holds the property, this would be unlikely. DGIF is apparently considering use fees in the future as a fundraiser.

### River Access: Roanoke River

The pending lawsuit is moving closer to a filing, with attorneys continuing research. Meanwhile, the 5-year lease given to a developer has expired and will not be renewed. This is good news, although the lawsuit may still be necessary. Access is currently still open to the public, although the Park claims it can shut it down at any time.

### Fly Ash Actions: New River

The FFV has also requested that Congressman Rick Boucher continue to pursue documents under FOIA regarding the hazardous nature of fly ash. As you may know, a permit has been requested to dump fly ash from a power plant alongside the New River. FFV, FORVA, the NCNR (Nat. Comm. For the New River) and other groups are working on this.

### Clean Water Act Bills:

The FFV supported the good Clean Water Act reauthorization, HR 3852, the Cardin bill, and opposed the bad Clean Water Act reauthorization, the Goodlatte bill, HR 5509. The FFV also signed on to a letter to the House Committee on Agriculture opposing the bad bill.

### Flood Insurance Bill:

The FFV signed on to a letter of opposition to H.R. 1264, the "Multiple Peril Insurance Act of 2009", will add windstorm coverage to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Expanding the NFIP to include coverage of windstorms is not a good move. Such an expansion would increase incentives to develop and redevelop many dangerous, high-risk and environmentally-sensitive areas next to our waters, give citizens a false sense of security, and cost U.S. taxpayers billions of dollars.

**Bill Tanger,**  
**FFV Conservation Chair**  
**Submitted July 15, 2010**

# Memorial Day Meeting

Brian Van de Sande called the meeting to order in Don Sims' absence.

## Secretary's Report

Minutes from the Winter meeting were accepted as printed in the Winter version of the Fishin' Pole, Pack and Paddle.

## Treasurer's Report

Katherine Waller Boyd reported that general funds are \$9,964 and funds invested in CD's include \$8,259. She also reported that this year, she will be reporting river tax as an item separate from dues to track these income lines.

## Membership Report

Beth Willoughby reported 107 paid members, which does not include the Roanoke Valley Chapter's current numbers. Check with Beth if you are not receiving your newsletter. Beth announced that she is giving up the Membership position and we will need a replacement.

## Conservation Report

Bill Tanger reported on three conservation issues and five access issues.

### Conservation

1. Bay initiatives—various groups within Virginia are forming a statewide rivers program to address Chesapeake Bay concerns.
2. Clean Water Act—a federal bill currently in Congress will provide additional protection to the Bay.
3. The President has issued an executive order to clean up the Bay—all states involved except Virginia have responded positively; our state has some concerns with access issues.

### Access

1. Landowner liability law—applies to railroad crossings and to the application for access at Cushaw on the James.
2. Public Access Coalition—Bill has signed up FFV to participate in this group.

3. At the federal level—a bill will address access issues wherever a road crosses a river and/or uses federal money for construction.

4. Rutrough Road—an individual who received a ticket for parking/using an access that Explore Park claims as their property is allowing his name to be used in a suit against Explore.

5. Gauley River—FORVA purchased some land at Woods Ferry take out that can be made available for camping. A motion was made for FFV to contribute \$2,000 towards legal fees for the Rutrough Road access case. After a discussion, the motion was withdrawn in order for the request to be presented to the FFV Foundation, which has a goal of pursuing access.

## Newsletter Report

No report

## Webmaster Report

Bob Born moved the webpage when the previous server's prices increased. Chapter webpages need to be moved and updated also. Bob requested that someone from each chapter needs to be in touch with Bob to get this done. Contact him at: [webmaster.floatfishermen.org](mailto:webmaster.floatfishermen.org)

## Foundation Report

Bill Tanger recommended that Tyla Matteson--involved in the Mattaponi/King William Reservoir issue--receive the Randy Carter award.

## Old Business

The Annual Kids' Float—scheduled for June 12th from Warren's Ferry to Hatten Ferry on the James still needs paddlers to take kids downstream. Contact Erica Sims Goode or Ginnie Peck.

It was moved and approved that FFV



*Bryon & Peyton Jones on Balcony Falls  
photo courtesy of Wendy Jones*

waive the river tax whenever meetings are held at sites where members have to pay for camping.

Bill Tanger will present information on how legislature relating to river issues is achieved at the December meeting. He was originally scheduled for this presentation at last December's meeting, but could not attend.

## New Business

There was discussion on forming a group to look at laws relating to dam safety since there have been a number of deaths at old dams in the past year. Ken Ingram presented hitch covers as a fundraiser and stated that they will be available at the Labor Day meeting.

## Announcements

Anyone interested in out west river trips contact Bill Tanger. Alan Joslyn, president of the Roanoke Chapter reported on the Second Roanoke River Renaissance, an event to call attention to the stretch of the Roanoke River that flows through Roanoke City.

The Labor Day meeting will be held at the Slate River property. Dickels will be cooking.

After announcements, Brian adjourned the meeting.

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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: E-mail 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 and compliments are always welcome.  
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# The Wild West Adventure & David Morgan Memorial River Trip



(June 10 - June 25, 2010) By Bill Tanger

Think about it... on the way to the Grande Ronde River in Oregon, we ran straight into a tornado in Nebraska, through a blizzard in Wyoming, then, while on the river, we had high water for two solid weeks, a major hailstorm and a high-wind gale that wrecked our camp. And that was just the weather.

*(The day after the tornado, we read that 18 people were killed at a campground by flooding from the same storm that brought the tornado. So, we knew we had huge water ahead of us.)*

So we changed rivers midstream on the way to Oregon, since we could see that our original plan to run the Grande Ronde was too dangerous. We switched to the North Fork of the John Day, using intelligence from guidebooks and cell phone exchanges with our western boater, Mike Barkley, coming to meet us in Oregon.

Six of us drove non-stop to Boise, taking turns at the wheel and sleeping in the back of Howard Kirkland's Ford Excursion. Sleeping was mostly a concept. Exhaustion accumulated by the hour.

In Kentucky, Danny dropped his cell phone down a stormdrain, so we had to pull the grate and go stormdrain-diving in the middle of the night. Luckily, we got the phone back. In Nebraska, we ran smack into a killer storm that included a tornado. We had to pull off the highway and park as driving was impossible. No one was out anywhere and we realized that everyone was in a storm cellar for protection. In our case, we had no storm cellar to go to. The roof of the Excursion began leaking as well. At times, we thought the truck would simply fly away with us in it!

After a couple of starts and stops, we finally drove out of the storm and tornado area, by using Sharon Dodson's iPad and checking the weather maps!

We headed west again. We had discovered early that the brakes were out on the trailer, so instead of helping brake the Excursion, the trailer was pushing us downhill faster. Lovely. Especially going downhill in snow during the blizzard in Wyoming.

We finally made it to Boise where we picked up Juanita Tanger at the airport and then later met Mike Barkley at the put-in to the North Fork John Day. We camped there for the night. The river, which was ripping by at 3500 cfs (2000 cfs above normal) looked exciting and gorgeous from the road.

Come morning, we loaded our three rafts, a kayak and a canoe for adventure. We set off, nervous but confident. For the next two days we had sunshine and warm weather.

We got to see incredible columnar basalt cliffs that ran for miles along the river. These are created when lava cools very slowly and crystallizes into giant hexagonal crystals, sometimes thousands of feet tall. The most famous of these are at Giants Causeway in Northern Ireland.

We had really cool campsites, often on beaches or under juniper trees or Ponderosa pines, and always we had fabulous food. After all, we had Chefs Kirkland, Booker and Barkley, in addition to some conscript chefs who cooked only at gunpoint.

On the third day it became cool and cloudy, then windy and rainy, then the skies opened up and we really caught hail! We pulled ashore and climbed up under some huge Ponderosa pines

where the hail would not dent our heads and the wind was not so severe.

After an hour or so, things calmed down, and we boated downstream to the Monument take-out. We drove to the town of Spray, Oregon, for dinner and a warm motel.

After our run on the North Fork of the John Day River, we moved downstream to the main John Day River and floated another four days. It was on the second day of this trip when a thunderstorm began to overtake us as we looked for a campsite. Every campsite we came to was full, but with the storm bearing down upon us, we decided to camp on a low island, with about one foot of elevation, because it was getting dark. At the same time, the river had changed color to muddy brown and looked like it was rising.

We set up our rain tarp, supported with oars, poles and many stakes and ropes. As we began to prepare dinner a violent gale whipped up, with horrendous winds and lightning crashing everywhere. Suddenly the winds tore the tarp down, dragging oars and poles and knocking down our kitchen tables and chairs. Food went flying everywhere. People dove for cover where they could. Juanita, Bill and Danny pulled a tarp over their heads and huddled in the dark as lightning bolts lit the canyon up every few minutes.

The storm abated after about an hour. We surveyed the damage, tried to fix a quick dinner and then crashed for the night, fully beat up and exhausted.

The next day was good weather, good water and good floating. We enjoyed more of

(continued from page 4)

Oregon's beautiful geology, topography and flora. We took out at Clarno and drove back to Boise to drop Juanita off at the airport, while Mike Barkley headed home as well.

The next day we ran the South Fork of the Boise at a high 2500 cfs (normal flow below 2000 cfs). This ten-mile river included about eight miles of continuous Class III at this level. This is a river with sheer, straight up cliffs on both sides and virtually no place to land on shore. It is totally remote. The water temperature is a constant 35 degrees. In 2001, two rafters died of hypothermia after flipping their raft.

Right above a log jam, Mike Kalanick came out of his kayak and hit the icy cold water. He had been trying to shoot photos and had only one hand on his paddle when he hit a wave. When he came out of his boat (after 5 missed rolls) he was holding onto his paddle, emptying water from the boat, and attempting to pull it all to shore. Willy yelled at him to swim away from the log jam, so he let the boat go, made a split second decision to swim to the left shore rather than to the downstream raft and got there with his paddle in hand.

When Mike got to shore there was no way to hike downstream as the cliffs were straight up on both sides of the canyon. He hiked along the steep bank until it became impassible due to rocks and downed trees. Mike then figured rock climbing was a greater risk than swimming. He was forced to go back into the 35 degree water and swim downstream, holding on to Willy's rope for safety. He and Willy couldn't see the raft, so they were hoping that it was close by!

Meanwhile, Mike's kayak was racing willy-nilly downstream. Howard, Bill and Sharon in the raft captured it and paddled into an eddy. Eventually, Mike swam down to where the raft was parked with his kayak. There, Mike regained his composure, body temperature and boat.

The rest of the trip was done very carefully as the canyon was no longer getting any sunshine and it was getting late. We never saw another boat on the river, at the put-in or at the take-out that day. Very remote. Very spooky.

The take-out was a very welcome site. Everyone was quite numb with cold and sobered by the events of the afternoon. We decided to stay at a motel in Boise to thaw out properly.

*(Mike says that was his first swim in 30 runs for 210 miles, and he has put on hold videoboating while in rapids until he can get a real helmet camera.)*

Next morning, we headed to Banks and the Payette River. We scouted the South Fork which was running quite high. We looked at the North Fork of the Payette, running at 3000 cfs. Insanely high.

So we ran the Upper North Fork, the eight-mile Cabarton section which was delightful. We saw several mule deer, marmots, eagles and ducks in a really magnificent canyon of firs and pines. The whitewater was big but fun, and every drop offered a pool for recovery.

And so the trip ended with a float trip that we all enjoyed and was that was not terrifying.

Our drive back home was without weather events, and we arrived back in Lynchburg on



Friday afternoon at 4:00 pm.

Another adventurous and memorable David Morgan Memorial Trip.

We are already contemplating new rivers for next year!

*Participants: Howard Kirkland, Danny Booker, Sharon Dodson, Bill Tanger, Juanita Tanger, Mike Kalanick, Willy Young and Mike Barkley of Sisters, Oregon.*

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**Foundation Report**

• The board of directors of the FFV Foundation met on May 30, 2010 at Glen Maury Park, Buena Vista, VA. Attending board members were Bill Tanger, Rick Mattox, Bob Born, Bob Peck, ROC Cooper, John VanLuik.

• The meeting was called to order by Bill Tanger.

• The first topic of discussion was the end of Rutrough Road in Roanoke at Explore Park. An individual was ticket for trespassing when he parked at the end of the road approximately 2 years ago. There is a test court case to get a declaratory judgment from a judge stating whether it is public access or not. Terry Grimes and Dan Frankl are the two lawyers handling the case. A motion was made and seconded that the Foundation contribute \$2000.00 to help pay for legal proceedings. The motion carried.

• Decals with "Float Fishermen of Virginia Foundation are going to be given to anyone donating \$10 or more to the Foundation. The board agreed to appropriate \$25 to purchase stickers and get 102 stickers.

• With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

• John VanLuik, Secretary



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## **Directions to Labor Day 2010 Slate River Property**

**Please visit our website for directions:**

**[www.floatfishermen.org/ffvschedule.html](http://www.floatfishermen.org/ffvschedule.html)**

**If you have questions, please contact Bob Peck**

## **2010 Float Fishermen of Virginia Calendar**

**Sept. 4-6, 2010**

**Labor Day Float \*\*\*State Meeting**

Slate River Property

Contact: Bob Peck

James & Slate Rivers

**Sept. 24-26, 2010**

**Dickel Bash**

Rockfish River

Contact: Ginnie Peck

**December 2010**

**State Winter Meeting**

Tentatively Cumberland State Forest

Contact: Don Sims

