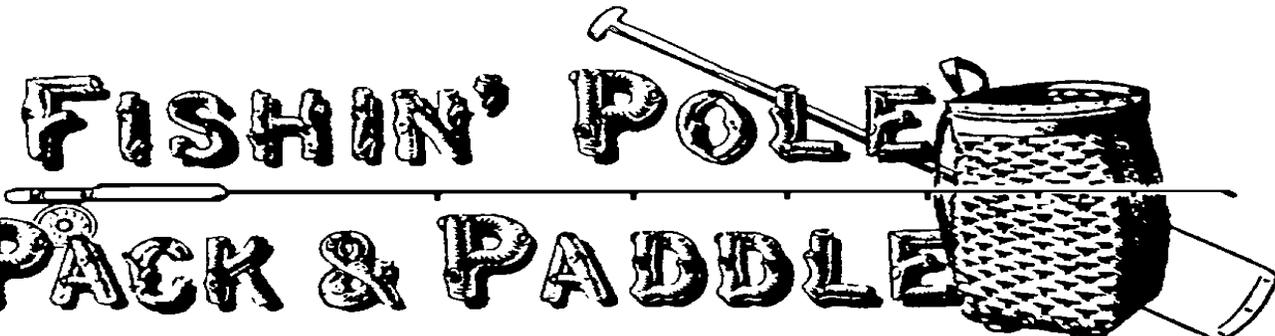


FISHIN' POLE PACK & PADDLE



Float Fishermen of Virginia

Winter/Spring 2005, No. 1

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☞ ☜

2005 Dues are Overdue!



If you have not yet renewed your membership please contact your local chapter's treasurer or state FFV Treasurer Tim Henness and do so now!

Please include your address, email, and other contact information to insure that the membership roster and mailing list stays up to date.

The President's Paddle

It is the winter doldrums and only the hard core are thinking about putting a boat into the water. As for myself, the only water I have put a boat in recently is the swimming pool for rolling practice. But don't despair, spring is on the way. In the meantime there is always wetsuits and dry suits.

Thanks to those who attended the winter meeting and helped plan the activity calendar for this year's activities. Once again Jim Garner and helpers did a great job of frying fish and cooking beans for the Saturday evening meal. Thanks to Jim and Pete.

There has been a change of schedule for the Memorial Day meeting place. Because of the limited camping space at the Ruckers Run site the meeting has been changed to Glenn Maury Park in Buena Vista. I wanted to be sure to accommodate the geriatric sector of the club that prefers camping trailers. (Just kidding, there are some young folks who are also partial the wheeled campers). This campground is a pay your own way site. Will let you know later what the rate will be. Glenn Maury offers easy access to several sections of the Maury and several sections of the James. There are novice sections and water permitting, some advanced sections of river too

There isn't a planned meal for the Memorial Day meeting, but maybe we can do a potluck with everyone providing their own meat, or beans for the vegetarians, and then bring a side dish or desert to share. Something to think about.

There are several chapter sponsored functions before the Memorial Day meeting so check out the event schedule and join in the fun. If I don't see you on the river, I'll see you at happy hour.

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FFV Winter Business Meeting Minutes

Cumberland State Forest, December 4, 2004. The annual business meeting was called to order promptly at 1:00, as several stragglers followed in. A motion was made to approve the minutes from the Labor Day meeting as printed in the previous newsletter, and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer, Tim Henness, reported the balance of our account is down slightly, but that this is normal after a year with a VIP float. He also informed us that our annual dues should be turned in by the end of December.

Membership Chair's Report

Don Leeger, the membership chairman, reported that we currently have 231 families enrolled in our organization.

Newsletter Editor's Report

Bob Pillow, newsletter editor, informed us that the newsletters cost the FFV \$349.74. There was then a small discussion about e-mailing newsletters out instead of mailing them, to cut down on costs. However no decision was made on this matter.

Conservation Chair's Report

Conservation chair Bill Tanger had several conservation issues to be discussed, the first of which was the conservation committee, which is open to all FFV members. We currently have eight members active in projects. The next topic discussed was the Virginia Exceptional Waters program. There were ten nominations all of which were approved by the State Water Control Board (SWCV), seven of them located in national forests. The third item discussed was the appointment of several new members to the SWCB. Next was mentioned the two meetings of the Invasive Species Board, which has made no progress as there are no available funds. The next major issue discussed was river access at Balcony Falls on the James. There was recently a meeting with DCR and CSX to discuss the Cushaw project and it went well. DGIF is supportive of the project, but claims it has no funds to manage a non-motorized boater site. The project does have the support of seven state delegates and three senators thus far. There was a motion brought to the floor, for blank business cards designated for use by the President and participants in special projects (such as the Cushaw project) where appropriate. The cards would include the state P.O. Box, web address, and logo. An appropriate name and additional contact information would be added by hand as needed. The motion was approved.

Webmaster 's Report

The webmaster, Bob Born, informed us that the annual cost of the web page was \$149.10. We did receive several donations for advertisements on the web page as well as a discount on the canoe for the raffle.

continued on page 4...

2004 Winter Meeting Highlights!

The Float Fishermen's Annual Winter Meeting 2004 was blessed with beautiful late fall weather and warm hospitality. Jim Garner made sure that everyone was well feed Saturday evening with a fish fry, hush puppies, and a cucumber salad. The Steven Keller Chapter brought fresh bay oysters for an appetizer, Cathy Leonard provided just the right holiday music, and a few of our more talented members provided entertainment while maintaining the tradition of the 'Annual Winter Prance-Off.'

Special thanks are due to those dedicated FFVers who came early on Friday and demonstrated the strength of their commitment by constructing a new sign at the entrance to the Cumberland State Forest Headquarters. Equipment, which included post hole diggers and shovels, was provided by the Department of Forestry, while the FFVers supplied the muscle.

Two post holes had to be dug for the uprights and after some measuring and re-measuring, insertion, removal and reinsertion, the uprights were finally erect and even in height. The sign was then attached between the uprights.

Hopefully, everyone who attended the winter meeting noticed the new sign and the attached FFV sticker at the bottom.

~ Thanks to Roc, Pete and Bob for these photographs.



...continued from page 2

FFV Winter Business Meeting Minutes

Foundation Report

Chris Leonard reported for the foundation that they were selling tickets for the canoe raffle (hopefully to be raffled at the memorial day meeting.) The foundation will be having a meeting directly following the business meeting. Rick Mattox reported on the results from the Foundation survey, which was also posted in the previous newsletter.

New Business:

Conservation issues. Under new business, chapters were urged to help keep our rivers clean by adopting a river (DCR.) Chapters should contact Bill Tanger if interested in the "Adopt-a-Stream" program. Rick Webster told us about a program being offered by a Prince George School. They are selling kits to help grow river grass. The grass is grown at your home, and can then be taken out and transplanted into local rivers. Bill Tanger informed us of the Virginia citizen water quality monitoring program.

FFV Brochures. We are almost out of FFV brochures. A committee consisting of Bob Born, Don Leeger, and Linda Van Luik, was formed to create new flyers.

Donation to Department of Forestry. The next item of business was to donate \$200 to the Department of Forestry where we have had our annual business meeting for the last eight years. Special thanks go out to Roc Cooper for helping coordinate our arrival and meeting space.

Places to float. [editors note: a few changes were made following the winter meeting, see the calendar section in this issue for the updated 2005 FFV float & meeting schedule] The scheduled floats for the 2005 were voted up. For the Memorial Day float we agreed upon Ruckers Run as the

primary spot with Glen Maury Park as a backup. There will be a \$5 river tax per person for the weekend to help cover the cost of the porta-johns. No dinner will be served on Saturday night. The vote for the Labor Day weekend float was Bent Creek as the primary spot with Solitude as the backup. Once again there will be no Saturday night dinner and a \$5 per person per weekend river tax. The summer float will be held on July 16th and 17th at Whitt Riverbend Park on the New River with Solitude as the backup. The Randy Carter chapter is having their annual Head Suckin' on April 23rd and 24th for only \$25 per person. The Scotts Creek Chapter is having their annual float trip at Douthat State Park the weekend of March 18th, 19th and 20th. Ginnie informed us of a small gathering on April 9th.

Donations to other organizations. There was a lengthy discussion about donations and whom they should be distributed to. The list consisted of American Whitewater, American Rivers, Friends of the Shenandoah, FORVA, Virginia Conservation Network, and Whitt Riverbend Park. This item was tabled until the Memorial Day meeting.

Randy Carter Award. The candidates for the Randy Carter award were John Tippet (Executive Director, Friends of the Rappahannock), Rick Roth (President, Friends of the New River), Mattaponi & Pamunkey Rivers Association (MPRA), and Friends of the Rivers of Virginia (FORVA). A decision was reached and will be announced at the Memorial Day meeting at Glenn Maury.

Thanks to all that made it to the meeting and to all of the officers that help make this one of the best river conservation organizations in the state. I look forward to seeing everyone on the river soon.

Your Secretary,
Brian Vande Sande



Float Fishermen of Virginia Foundation Minutes ~ 12/04/04

Present: Rick Mattox, Bob Peck, Bob Born, Cris Leonard, Bill Tanger, Jim Garner and Roc Cooper.

The Foundation President asked for a status report on the sale of FFVF raffle tickets. The group agreed we really need to work hard at this to sell all the tickets by Memorial Day 2005.

Foundation members passed a motion to recommend that FFV give FFV Certificates of Appreciation to Rick Roth, John Tippet and FORVA. These persons/organizations were runners-up as nominees for the Randy Carter Award for 2004. The Foundation also passed a motion to ask FFV to circulate a formal announcement to solicit Randy Carter Award Nominees from others in the outdoor community. It was discussed that any nominee's references/vita should be submitted to FFV by Labor Day giving the club time to review this information for the next year's nominations.

Jim Garner gave the FFVF treasurers report.

~ Submitted by ROC Cooper, FFVF secretary



Welcome New FFV Members

Appomattox Chapter
Paul Gray, Chesterfield

Commonwealth Chapter
Ralph Donovan, Midlothian

George Dickel Chapter
Kathleen O'Farrell, Barboursville
Mitch Sims, Oakton
Richard Thomas, High Point, NC
Tiom & Kari Sillett, Charlottesville
Trey Wilkerson, Charlottesville

Randy Carter Chapter
Rob & Debra Curry, Broad Run

FFV State
Dick Thomas, High Point NC
Howard Kruse, Hardyville

Roanoke Valley Chapter
Albert Walter, Pulaski
Betty Dalton & Robert Weddle, Chatanouga TN
Christine Stinson, Ferrum
Clinton Stoneking, Roanoke
David Bernard, Blacksburg
James Keatts, Chatham
James Saunders, Salem
Jennifer Hazelrigg, Bedford
Joseph Shelton, Goodview
Josh & Jenifer Beamer, Roanoke
Maria Melo, Roanoke
Matt Knost, Christiansburg
Matthew Prescott, Roanoke
Steven Knowles, Christiansburg
Steven Wiegardt, Daleville

Dedicated to the preservation of Virginia's wild and scenic rivers...

FFV Chapters Help Keep Local Waters Clean

Several FFV chapters have adopted sections of rivers and streams throughout the state. The **George Dickel Chapter** informally adopted a stretch of the Rockfish from route 29 downstream to route 620, and are now working on a more formal arrangement. The **Randy Carter Chapter** adopted the landing at Kelley's Ford several years ago through an "Adopt-A-Spot" program. Clean up events are organized twice a year; first in April, to coincide with preparations for the Head Suckin', and again during the "Last Blast" when R5 is prepared for the winter. The **Roanoke Valley Chapter** adopted a section of the Roanoke River in Salem and has been carrying out clean up events or twice annually for more than ten years. Last April's event, held in cooperation with the Clean Valley Council's Clean Valley Day, attracted the attention of Salem City Councilman John Givens who stopped to thank the group for their dedication to keeping the river clean and promised to make note of the effort at the next City Council meeting. These are just three examples of what can be done; other chapters who have not already done so are encouraged to develop similar programs. Such efforts fulfill a part of the mission of the Float Fishermen, provide a bit of positive PR in the community, and most importantly help keep our streams and rivers clean.

Virginia's Adopt-A-Stream Program

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Adopt-A-Stream program invites citizens to take action in their community by organizing clean up projects for local streams. Working through DCR groups receive advice, materials and recognition for their efforts.



Anyone interested in initiating programs in their area can contact the DCR AAS coordinator by phone (804-692-0903) or email (adoptastream@dcr.virginia.gov), or by writing to:
Virginia Adopt-A-Stream Program
Department of Conservation and Recreation
203 Governor St, Suite 213
Richmond, VA 23219

More information is available at the DCR website: <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/sw/adopt.htm>

An Overview of FFV Conservation Committee Activities

Members of the Conservation Committee have been busy on a number of projects relating to water quality and access. Eight major statewide issues are listed below, along with names of members who contributed their time and energy to attend meetings and speak for Virginia waters on these issues. When you see them, be sure to say thanks!

| <i>Conservation Event locations & dates</i> | <i>Participants</i> |
|---|---|
| Cushaw Site Visits: various | Bob Born, Pam Brindle. Juanita Callis, Tom Coffey, Ken Ingram, Donnie Mohler, Mick Overstreet, Bob Peck, Ginnie Peck, Mike Robertson, Bill Tanger, Jeff Wold, Shirly Wold |
| Mattaponi Hearings: Richmond, various | Tom Miller |
| Delegate Meetings: various | Juanita Callis, Tom Miller, Mick Overstreet, Bill Tanger |
| Railroad Crossings: 11/30/04 | Bill Tanger, Jeff Wold |
| Tier III, SWCB: 12/2/04 | Thomas Newcomb, Bill Tanger |
| Delegate Griffith: Meeting | Ken Ingram, Mike Klaiber, Bill Tanger, Jeff Wold |
| Blueways Meeting: 12/9/04 | Bill Tanger, Mac Whitaker |
| Invasives Meeting: 12/15/04 | Bill Tanger |

 For more information, or to join the efforts of the Conservation Committee, contact Bill Tanger, Conservation Chair.

Letters to the Editor...

Following the final installment of 'Mississippi Emails' in the Fall/Winter 2004 edition, new member Mark Wenger wrote to say:

"What a pleasant surprise to read Cathy Reiter's article on canoeing the Mississippi River. It was all the more surprising to read about her ending her trip in St. Francisville, Louisiana. That is the town where I am from and where I grew up. It is where I first found my love of fishing and canoeing. Thanks for the article and bringing back to me many fond memories." ~ Mark J. Wenger, Williamsburg

If you happen to be planning a trip to Louisiana anytime soon, you may want to check out the **Bayou Haystackers Paddling Club** website. Organized to promote the sport of paddling, and representing southeast Louisiana and southern Mississippi the site includes links to some of the member's favorite paddling sites along with photos and descriptions. There are also links to rental and guide services, should you find yourself lacking in gear or expertise. Their website address is:

<http://www.bayouhaystackers.com/>

Comments, criticisms and complements, are always welcome. Naturally, letters that heap praise upon the editor are especially likely to find their way into print.

Legislative Report: **Funding for the Bay & Tributaries**

The Virginia Legislature is considering several measures aimed at reducing pollution from municipal sewage treatment plants and agricultural runoff, the largest sources for nitrogen pollution in the Chesapeake Bay. While the legislature is in session things change quickly. The regular session ends this month and by the time you see this article it will no doubt be out of date, so interested readers should check the Virginia General Assembly's website at <http://legis.state.va.us/> for the latest news. Also, look for a legislative update in the next FPP&P.

House Bill 2694 & Senate Bill 1240

HB2694, known as the *Virginia Clean Streams Act*, would require localities to assess residences connected to a municipal sewer system, septic system, or other wastewater treatment system \$52 per year, and industrial facilities connected to a municipal sewer system \$1,200 per year. Localities could to develop criteria to exempt persons who can demonstrate financial hardship.

SB1240 in the Senate paralleled HB2694; however both bills enjoyed only limited sponsorship. Given the legislators reluctance to implement any new revenue enhancement measures, it should come as no surprise that neither bill survived in their respective House and Senate committees.

House Bill 2777

HB2777 establishes the *Water Quality Improvement Restricted Use Fund*. Moneys in the Fund are to be used to reduce nitrogen and phosphorous discharges from municipal sewage systems and agricultural land. Unlike HB2694, no new taxes or fees are needed. Instead, one-twelfth of the net revenue generated from the two percent sales and use tax, in an amount up to \$160 million annually, will be dedicated to the Fund. Based on estimated collections for FY 2007 and beyond, the amount dedicated would in fact reach the \$160 million ceiling each year.

A ten member Water Quality Improvement Restricted Use Advisory Commission will be created to advise the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation both of whom will control a portion of Fund. DEQ will disburse monies through the Virginia Resources Authority for the sole purpose of designing and installing state-of-the-art nutrient removal technologies at municipal sewage systems. DCR will disburse monies through the Virginia Agriculture Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program for the sole purpose of implementing management practices that reduce nitrogen and phosphorous pollution from agricultural lands.

The bill's chief patron is 15th District Delegate Allen L. Louderback (R, Luray); and, an additional twenty House members have also signed on as supporting patrons. On the 8th of February the bill passed the House with 98 yeas and 0 nays, was communicated to the Senate where on 9 February it was referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Natural Resources.

Senate Bill 1235

Sponsored by District 13 Senator Frederick M. Quayle (R, Chesapeake), SB1235 began life as a parallel to HB2694. A substitute amendment was proposed by the Senate Committee on Finance on 2 February and passed by the Senate on 9 February, then sent to the House where it currently resides in the Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources Committee. As passed, the bill deposits \$50 million from the general fund into the Water Improvement Quality Fund as of July 15, 2005. With additional monies provided from the general fund the expenditures would be used in much the same manner as proposed in HB2777.

...as of 14 February:

HB2777 had been passed by the House, and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Natural Resources. The bill was referred to the Senate Finance Committee on Valentines Day where it remained as of press time.

This measure seems to have the greatest chance of success. Perhaps, by the time this issue reaches members, the full Senate will have acted as well. Stay tuned.

It's February, Do You Know Where Your Legislators Are?

If you are uncertain how to contact your representatives in the Virginia House of Delegates, the Virginia Senate, and the US Congress, House of Representatives, the Virginia General Assembly web site can help.

Go to <http://legis.state.va.us> and click on the "Who's My Legislator" link at the top of the page; or call Legislative Information toll free at 1-877-391-3228.

*"Democracy is a device that ensures we shall be governed no better than we deserve."
~ George Bernard Shaw*

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality ~ Regional Community Meetings

Last fall DEQ held a series of open house community meetings, one in each of the department's seven regional offices. The stated purpose of each meeting was "...to enhance opportunities for community involvement in environmental activities in Virginia." Photographs, meeting notes and action items for each of the meetings are posted on the DEQ web site: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/info/meetings/homepage.html>

Several members of the Roanoke Chapter attended the West Central Regional meeting in Roanoke on 4 November, among them Linda Van Luik who provides the following observations.

Report on West Central Regional Community Meeting, Roanoke

Linda Van Luik

Last fall, several Roanoke Valley Chapter FFV members attended an information session hosted by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. After an introduction to the Department's programs, all in attendance were invited to break into smaller discussion groups to talk about issues of interest. I personally wanted to know a bit more about terms that we sometimes see or hear in the media and use in our discussions about the status of Virginia's rivers.

This is what I gleaned from the meeting: there are about 1,500 miles of Virginia's streams and rivers do not meet state water standards, according to a state monitoring program. I wanted to know what determines which streams are monitored; how it is determined if a stream is polluted, and how the pollution is then alleviated and/or ameliorated.

From the questions and answers in my break-out group, I discovered a few things which have led me to formulate new questions, some of which I did not get a chance to ask at the meeting. Since there is only one biologist for each of the DEQ's regional offices, much of the monitoring is done on a volunteer basis by concerned citizens. Pollutants are measured as Total Daily Maximum Loads, defined as "the amount of pollution a stream can receive and still meet Water Quality Standards". Although a stream may be impaired based on TDML studies, companies discharging into that stream may not be in violation of state water control standards, and any attempts between the DEQ and the discharger to rectify problems are to be accomplished through a voluntary compliance program. If the discharger is not in violation, it means either one of two things to me: either excessive pollution may be coming from non-point sources or discharge standards are too lenient. This raises another question: is there a possibility that

after x number of years of attempting to get dischargers to reduce their pollutant in a voluntary program, and streams remain impaired, will the definition of what is in violation be changed to meet better water quality standards? Probably not.

Currently, 636 waters in Virginia are impaired; these waters are classified as Tier I streams; a department official declared Tier II streams as "ok"; Tier III is a designation for exceptional waters that meet two or all of the following criteria: an exceptional stream is "in a location of scenic beauty and either has exceptional aquatic communities or superior recreational opportunities". The intent of giving exceptional status to a stream is to provide protection that Tier I or II streams lack. I see the DEQ's Tier III program an attempt to avoid the pollution that already exists on other streams because regulations developed over the years provide limited protection.

Some Virginia streams have gained the protection of Tier III status. Others have been recommended but have not gained status. In order to gain this status, local riparian landowners and local governments must be in agreement. In some instances, this seems to be an almost insurmountable problem. A few weeks following the DEQ meeting, John and I attended a hearing held in relation to the possible nomination of sections of the Cowpasture River for Tier III status. The lack of agreement among the landowners and the opposition of local governing bodies was a sure sign that this nomination would probably not succeed.

Next time: Why is the Tier III status not universally understood or accepted?

Protection for Virginia's Exceptional Waters

Landowner Liability and River Access

Bill Tanger, Chair, [FORVA](#)

For decades boaters have been forced to contend with that linear steel barrier to river access, the railroad. Often running along both sides of a river for the entire length of the river, railroad tracks often result in boater trespass. On some rivers, this means hundreds of persons trespassing on a good day.

In Virginia, we have a recent law that attempts to open up river access across railroad tracks. It is called the Landowner Liability Law, and is Section 29.1-509. This law expressly eliminates landowner liability if the landowner gives permission for the public to cross his property to get to the river. It further states that landowners have no duty to provide for the safety of any access or to provide any warning of danger or hazard. It reads, in part:

“A landowner shall owe no duty of care to keep premises safe for entry or use by others...to permit public passage....”

“Any landowner who gives permission ...does not thereby...represent that the premises are safe...or incur liability....”

“...whenever any person...grants access to the [government]... the [government]... shall hold a person harmless from all liability....”

We are currently working to convince the railroads that they are no longer liable under this new law so they will support new crossings for river access. The Cushaw Project is our test case. This proposed crossing would be a new crossing but go under the tracks along the James River below Balcony Falls, instead of over the tracks. Common sense would say this would reduce liability and risk.

We encourage you to download and review a copy of this law from www.state.va.us. We believe the most important thing a boater can do to help us all get river access is to ask your legislator for a letter of support for the Cushaw Project.

If you are able to help, please contact Bill Tanger at tanger@mediavisionva.com for a Cushaw Project package.

The Exceptional Waters Program prevents new or increased discharges into a body of water to preserve its current water quality for the benefit of future generations. Nominations of waters to be designated as "Exceptional" under the program are presented for consideration to the State Water Control Board, comprised of citizens who make regulatory decisions about water issues in Virginia. The intent is to provide extra protection for waters that exhibit exceptional scenic beauty, aquatic life or recreational opportunities.

On December 2nd, the State Water Control Board designated ten bodies of water as exceptional, placing them under Tier III protection. These waters are:

- Ragged Island Creek, Isle of Wright County
- Bottom Creek, Montgomery & Roanoke Counties
- Little Stony Creek, Giles County
- Laurel Fork, Highland County
- Whitetop Laurel Creek, Washington County
- Pedlar River, Amherst County
- Brown Mountain Creek, Amherst County
- North Fork of the Buffalo River, Amherst County
- Ramsey;s Draft, Augusta County
- Lake Drummond, Cities of Chesapeake & Suffolk

Previously the only body of water afforded recognition under the program was North Creek in Botetourt County. Additional streams remain under consideration by the Board.

The most recent additions are primarily located on public lands. Ragged Island Creek, Botom Creek, and Little Stony Creek, the only three that include private property, were nominated by citizen groups. The remaining waters, all located entirely on public lands, were nominated by the Department of Environmental Quality.

The adopted resolution is available from the DEQ website at this address:

http://www.deq.virginia.gov/wqs/doc_uments/tenadopt.pdf

(Sources: Richmond Times Dispatch, 12/03/05 & DEQ Web site: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/wqs/rule.html#T3>)

Embry Dam -- Good Riddance!

Work continues on the decommissioning of the Embry Dam on the Rappahannock River, following the initial blasts set off one year ago this month. The river remains closed to boaters while the work is being completed, but the end is in site.

The work is being done by a contractor hired by the Corps to remove the concrete dam itself and a wooden crib dam behind it. The Corps also intends to remove an additional 45,000 cubic yards of sediment upstream of the dams. The goal is to completely remove the dams and sediment and be out of the river by the first of March.



*Photo courtesy of the Friends of the Rappahannock River
November 2004*

The March first date has been set by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) to allow for the spring fish spawn. The Corps has been communicating with VDGIF to find out what, if any, extension could be permitted for in-stream work in the event that more time is needed to complete the project, although the project is on schedule at this point in time. The river will be reopened to recreation once the dam, sediment, and causeway have been removed and all other in stream activities (such as removal of any submerged rebar or other debris) have been completed.

Once the project is completed, a concrete and stone abutment on the north (Stafford County) side of the river will remain. For safety reasons, a black vinyl coated chain link fence will be erected around the back side. The fence will eventually be obscured with natural vegetation. Grading, seeding, and vegetation installation will occur on the river side of the abutment, although the river itself is not expected to flow anywhere near this point once it is fully restored. A historic stone abutment close to the north side will also be kept and protected. It is anticipated that water will flow around this structure only during high water.

On the south (Fredericksburg) side of the river the concrete and stone abutment and the stone lock system will be preserved. Saving the various abutments will provide an invaluable historic and cultural resource. Various interpretive panels for the Fredericksburg side are already in the works and there is talk of installing a recreational trail in the same area sometime in the future.

While access to the water itself for floaters and fishermen may be limited at present, there are other ways to savor the demise of, and say goodbye to the Embry Dam. Consider the following:

- Photographs and video depicting the life of Alvin T. Embry's dam can be found on the Free Lance-Star newspaper's web site: <http://www.freelancestar.com/News/FLS/Projects/2004/EmbreyDam> . Included are images ranging from the original construction early in the 20th century, to demolition in the 21st.
- If you are in of need some new reading material to pass the winter months, or just have a vacant spot on your coffee table, consider the commemorative book, "River Runs Free: Breaching the Rappahannock's Embrey Dam" published by the Free Lance-Star. A portion of the proceeds goes to the Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR).
- If images and text just aren't enough, you can own your very own slice of the 1854 crib dam with an interpretive plaque. Again, FOR benefits from these sales.
- Make a pilgrimage and visit the site where the dam used to be by participating in the Embry Dam Hike, Saturday April 9th. Fredericksburg City Planner and local historian Erik Nelson will lead the way, providing insight into the dam's history and the benefits of its removal. These hikes have been held in the past, but this time attendees will get to see the river returned (or at least in the process of returning) to a more natural state. Included on the tour will be a visit to the sediment containment area and a look at the salvaged crib dam timbers.

To sign up for this or other FOR events call (540) 373-3448, email cleanriver@pobox.com, or go to the website for more information. Ordering details for the commemorative book and the crib dam memento are also available at the FOR web site: <http://www.riverfriends.org>

FFV Calendar 2005



February

Fishin' Pole, Pack & Paddle
Winter/Spring issue 2005, No. 1

March 18-20

Maple Syrup Festival in Bath and Highland County
Rivers include Jackson, Back Creek, and the Bull Pasture. Jackson River and Back Creek are permit only, and only for a limited number of boats.
Contact Rick Mattox, Scotts Creek Chapter

April 9-10

Dickel Spring Bash
Boating on the Rockfish and James River
Contact Ginnie Peck, George Dickel Chapter

April 23-24

Annual Head Suckin'
R5 on the Rappahannock
Contact Pete Van Demon, Randy Carter Chapter

May (submissions due the 5th)

Fishin' Pole, Pack & Paddle
Spring/Summer issue 2005, No. 2

May 28-30

Memorial Day Float & Business Meeting
Glenn Maury, Buena Vista

July 16-17

Summer Float
Whitt Riverbend Park on the New River

August (submissions due the 5th)

Fishin' Pole, Pack & Paddle
Summer/Fall issue 2005, No. 3

September 3-5

Labor Day Float & Business Meeting
James River at Davids Creek, Bent Creek

October 1-2

Dickel Bash
Contact Ginnie Peck, George Dickel Chapter

November (submissions due the 5th)

Fishin' Pole, Pack & Paddle
Fall/Winter issue 2005, No. 4

... & Other Events around the state

Nelson County Downriver Canoe & Kayak Race

April 30
Seven miles on the Tye River, suitable for novice & expert paddlers. Check in at 9:30 am; picnic & awards after the race. Fee. 434-277-8023, or email roussos@lynchburg.edu for more information, or go to: <http://www.nelsoncountyva.org/NelDRace/index.htm>



Canoe the Clinch May 28 ~ October 30

Natural Tunnel State Park, Cove Ridge Center. Explore the Clinch River on a three hour guided canoe trip. Tour includes all equipment, instruction and transportation. Trips are held on weekends, but groups of five or more participants can arrange a weekday trip. [\$12 per person, \$10 per person for group of 8 or more.] 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Visitor Center. (276) 940-2696.

Twilight Canoe Tour and Owl Call

May 28 ~ September 3

Discover Holliday Lake and her wild residents after the sun goes down. We'll paddle along the lake's shores until it gets dark enough for the "Warriors of the Night" - the owls - to come out to hunt. Then we'll call the owls to lure them to fly over our tour group. Every Saturday night from Memorial Day through Labor Day. 7:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m. Fee, Advance registration is required. (434) 248-6308

The Pigg River Ramble June 5

Whether you want to race for time or take a scenic float, come join us for this exciting water adventure. The race begins on the upper portion of the Pigg River in Waid Park, and ends approximately seven miles down river. Fee. Registration forms can be obtained at www.franklincountyva.org/parks a month prior to this event. Franklin County Parks and Recreation Department at (540) 483-9293.

James River Batteau Festival June 17~18

Starting in downtown Lynchburg and continuing down the historic James River to a

point further downstream where the boats will float on the river just like once before they did and a better description will go here. For more information go to <http://www.batteaufestival.com/index.asp>

James River Raft Race

August 13
Buckingham County: Bring the whole family for this exciting event. There will be races in numerous categories including one-of-a-kind homemade vessels. Festivities include prizes, live music, fun and games. James River State Park Fee. (434) 933-4355

Paddlefest September 17

The area's biggest paddle sports event with hundreds of canoes and kayaks available for "test drives." . 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Fee. Contact Wild River Outfitters in Virginia Beach for more info call (757) 431-8566

Virginia's New River Trail Challenge Triathlon

September 17
New River Trail State Park (with Shot Tower) : Virginia's New River Trail Challenge Triathlon. Enjoy the splendid scenery of one of the

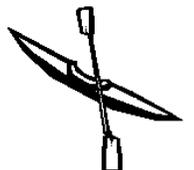
nation's most unique, linear parks while running, bicycling and canoeing. The 57-mile race covers the full length of the park's fairly flat terrain. Various team set-ups make the triathlon possible for beginners and experts alike. 8 a.m. (276) 699-6778 Fee.

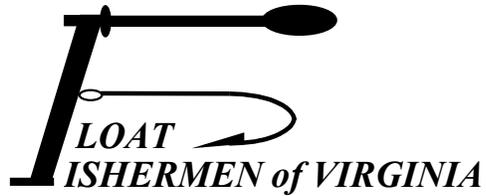
NEXT ISSUE . . .

Details & directions for:
The Memorial Day Float & Business Meeting,
Glenn Maury

And

The Summer Float,
Whitt Riverbend Park





P.O. Box 1895, Hayes VA 3072-1895

<http://www.floatfishermen.org>

info@floatfishermen.org

What do you want to see in your newsletter?

Past issues of the "Fishin' Pole, Pack & Paddle" have included trip reports, news briefs, product reviews, instructional articles, editorials on conservation and access issues, photographs, drawings and cartoons, quizzes, short stories, poetry, songs, recipes . . . and now and then, a little humor.

Of course, minutes of business meetings are included as a way of keeping all members informed; and a listing of upcoming events will always be present. Beyond that there are many options. Your input is needed. Please drop me a line and let me know what would make this newsletter informative, interesting, and useful for you.

***Bob Pillow, editor FPP&P
(see page 2 for contact info)***