

# FISHIN' POLE PACK & PADDLE

Float Fishermen of Virginia

Spring / Summer Issue - 2008, No.5

## President's Paddle

Hey everyone, hope you have had a good summer, I know the paddling has been scarce. The summer is almost over, which means the Labor Day float is just around the corner. We will be convening at the Glen Maury State Park. We did have a good start to the paddling season, with enough rain to get us through most of June. Unfortunately not much rain since then. We all need to do a few rain dances before Labor Day weekend.

My two year term will coming to a close at the Labor Day meeting. It has been my pleasure to sit at the helm. Thank you very much for the opportunity. I will be passing the paddle to Don "Riverdaddy" Sims. Are you guys crazy? Two Dickels in a row!! Riverdaddy has been a part of this organization for over twenty years, he is very excited to be stepping into this "office".

I would like to make a special THANK YOU, to Erica Sims. As you all know we had the second annual Kid Float, which coincided with our Summer Float this year. Erica did a great job organizing



Plenty of paddlers turned out for the Memorial Day Float!  
- photo courtesy of Wendy Jones

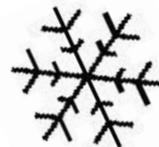
the event!! There were over 40 volunteers and 33 kids. The kids were from the inner city of Charlottesville. We did have a few repeat kids from last year, which means we must have done something right the first year. The day was a complete success, as long as you don't count waiting around for shuttle before and after. This event is an excellent opportunity to get involved with our local communities and has great potential to grow into other areas of Virginia. Our goal for next year is to have the 3rd Annual in C-ville and a 1st annual in Richmond. Thank you, again Erica!

Hope to see you all at Glen Maury State Park. Ginnie M. Peck

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# Winter Meeting 2007



President Jenny Peck called the Float Fishermen of Virginia meeting to order at Cumberland State

forest on December 1, 2007. She then asked for reports.

Minutes from the Labor Day meeting were accepted as published in the *Pole Pack & Paddle*.

## Newsletter

Bob Pillow distributed copies of the newsletter at the meeting for those attending. Persons who were not at the meeting will receive their newsletters in the mail.

## Membership

The new membership chairman is Beth Willoughby. Anyone wanting an E-mail copy of state membership can request one from Beth or the state treasurer, Katherine Waller

## Treasurer

Katherine Waller is currently still in the process of destroying old bank records up to seven years back. She explained how dues are being collected and membership lists developed. All dues--state and local--go to local treasurers. State dues are \$20; local dues vary. State dues will be transferred from local B&B accounts to the state B&B account. Katherine asks that all local treasurers send dues information to her twice monthly. Local treasurers should send their membership lists to the Beth, the state membership chair. It is important that these lists have correct addresses, so members can receive their state newsletters.

## Conservation and River Access

Bill Tanger presented several conservation issues: upcoming legislation concerning citizen advisory boards, fish kill studies, nominations for the Randy Carter award and river access initiatives.

Upcoming legislation will affect

citizens' advisory boards that oversee environmental issues such as air and water. Last year, legislation was passed--with a reenactment clause-- to eliminate or combine these boards: if passed again this year, the proposed realignment will occur. Opposed to this legislation are: a recent state Secretary of Natural Resources, a recent secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality and former Governor Baliles. A working group set up by Governor Kaine has reached no consensus, but does feel that the three boards are still necessary. Please contact your local representatives to voice your opposition to this legislation.

Recent fish kills in Virginia rivers are still being investigated. A task force has been sending surveys to fishermen on rivers that have been affected. A probable cause could be chicken litter. Currently, grant proposals are being submitted for funds to continue the studies.

Bill presented three persons as nominees for the Randy Carter Award. He distributed bio sheets for each nominee. The bio information will also be available to our membership via the website.

Any additional nominees' vitae curricula can also be submitted to the web site. The membership was reminded that we need to have the nominations and bio sheets by the Labor Day meeting so membership can make an informed vote at the Winter meeting. It was moved and approved that voting on the award be delayed to the Memorial Day meeting and the award can be presented at a later date

The Foundation's 2005 / 2006 survey of members identified access issues on 24 rivers, the top concerns being the James, the Roanoke River at Back Creek, the New, the Tye and Maury Rivers. The Foundation is proposing that local chapters assist in addressing some of these issues. It was suggested that each local chapter appoint one or two people to work on access issues.

Bob Peck will represent the Dickels, Rick Mattox and Katherine Waller will represent Scott's Creek, Larry Born will represent the Steve Kellers, and Don Simms who lives in Richmond will also assist in contacting delegates to discuss access issues. Bill sees the Cushaw Dam on the James below Balcony Falls as a test issue; he has prepared a draft letter for presentation to state delegates as a way of putting pressure on CSX—which is balking at providing access. Bill wants to let it be known that according to Virginia Code, C S X will not be held liable

for any injuries/deaths if they grant public crossings.

## Web site

No report

## Old Business

Don Simms has copies of the FFV brochure. Let him know if you want some personalized with contact information for your local chapter.

## New Business

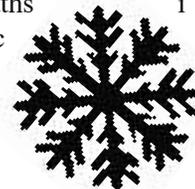
It was moved and approved to donate \$200 to Cumberland State Forest to thank them for the use of their fine facility for the Winter Meeting.

After completing business, the membership took a break and then welcomed guest speaker and new member Wilke Nelson, Deputy Vice President of Development for American Rivers.

After Wilke's presentation, the State Calendar for 2008 was decided:

*(Please see page 6 for the State Calendar)*

After setting the state calendar for 2008, the meeting was then adjourned so members could begin cocktail hour in anticipation of Jim Garner's delicious fish fry.



# Memorial Day Meeting



President Ginny Peck called the Memorial Day meeting to order on May 25, 2008 at the Slate River.

## Secretary's Report

The secretary's report was not available as the newsletter containing the minutes had not been received by membership. Those present humorously approved the motion to accept the minutes unread and unseen.

## Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was distributed and accepted. The beginning balance as of January 1, 2008 was \$5,519.88, with income of \$4,130, expenditures of \$747.50, resulting in an ending balance of \$8,902.38 as of April 30, 2008.

## Newsletter Report

A volunteer has stepped forward to take on the responsibilities of editing and producing the State FFV newsletter *Fishin' Pole, Pack and Paddle*. Our new editor is Allison Herbert.

## Membership Report

Membership secretary Beth Willoughby reported that we have added 21 members since last Fall, but our current roster shows only 120 paid members, since the Scotts Creek chapter has not yet been included.

## Web Report

Web master Bob Born needs input to update trip information. He has also agreed to post meeting minutes.

## Conservation Report

Conservation chair Bill Tanger addressed conservation issues and river access issues.

Legislation to gut the state's environmental quality boards did not succeed. Notables involved in defeating state legislation include Shelton Miles, Tayloe Murphy, Bob Burnley and Jerry Baliles.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation needs paddlers to complete DCR surveys about the North Anna. There is a possibility that based on paddler responses, new access points and guaranteed water releases could result.

The National Park Service has acquired 177 acres to provide public access on the Gauley River at Woods Ferry/Mason's Branch.

The Cushaw project on the James has become a wider state issue. CSX has consistently refused to consider access across their property. A new coalition of boaters, bicyclists, horseback riders and hikers are supporting the creation of

a Rail Authority in Virginia that would require railroads to address public interests. Dominion Power has committed \$165,000 to creating an access if CSX issues can be resolved.

Access on the Roanoke River near Explore Park is being fought by Explore, which threatens legal action if efforts are continued to improve a public right of way that Explore claims belongs to them.

Efforts to remove a dam in Franklin County are underway. Plans for a white water park are also progressing. The Randy Carter 2007 Award will be presented to a worthy nominee at a later date. Discussion of nominees was tabled at the Winter meeting and a final decision was made at Memorial Day. (Names of recipients are not usually made public until the award is presented.)

## Foundation Report

Surveys administered several years ago indicated that membership sees the Foundations' goals as looking to acquire land as access to rivers or assisting is access issues. The survey results indicated Balcony Falls and Roanoke River access as main areas of concern. Bill Tanger is looking for volunteers to assist with these issues.



A Foundation meeting was set to follow the regular Memorial Day membership meeting.

## Old Business

June 14 is the date for this year's Kids' Float, inaugurated last year by Erica Simms to get inner city kids on the river. The plan is to get 40 kids in canoes, each with an experienced paddler to float from Howardsville to Warren's Ferry. Let Erica know if you are available to help. Don Simms will get the canoes to the put-in the night before and guard them. FFV is supplying the kids' lunches, a sponsor will provide tee shirts and Pepsi is donating drinks. FFVers have been invited to spend the weekend at the Slate River property.

Many thanks to the Steve Kellers, under the direction

(continued on page 4)

Memorial Day Meeting (cont. pg 3)

of Betty Jo Born, for a wonderful meal Saturday night and to the Slate River property owners for hosting the Memorial Day weekend.

**New Business**

Announcement of other trips and events: June 6 and 7 are the "Black Out" and "Pig River Ramble" weekend in Franklin County; June 14 is also James River Clean Up Day.

Rock Willoughby presented two River Rock awards to Scott's Creek members; one for river rescue and ecology to Jack Hall, accompanied by his dog Chance, and one to Casey O'Sullivan as best river victim, the subject of Jack's river rescue.

Wright Ellis called for a moment of silence to remember Les Fry, old time FFVer and Coastal Canoeist who recently passed away. Bob DeRosset also had some kind words recalling Les as a mentor to many paddlers.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and approved, sending lots of floaters to the beautiful James.



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kid's Float

6.14.2008 • 10am-3:30pm • Howardsville to Warren



A day of canoeing, paddling, swimming and fun on the James River for lower income children in Charlottesville. The Kid Float was a combined effort of Charlottesville Parks and Recreation and the Float Fisherman of Virginia.

The float's goal was to offer a new experience for children living in the city, who have never been canoeing on the James River before.

We had 47 children sign up, and a total of 31 caught the bus. The children's ages ranged from 6-14yrs old. The majority of the youth came from Friendship Court, South First St., Westhaven, Riverside and Blue Ridge Commons and over 50 volunteers from FFV and P & R.

The children were bused to the put-in at Howardsville on the James River and canoed 6 miles to the take-out at Warren Ferry.



# Conservation News

## American Rivers: A Thumbnail Sketch



**American Rivers**  
*Thriving By Nature*

*American Rivers* has been around for quite a few years: founded in 1973, by paddlers and fishermen initially to get rivers into the Wild and Scenic Rivers system. American River's scope has increased beyond its initial goal to include issues such as the licensing of hydro power plants and the Clean Rivers Act. *American Rivers* sees one of its most important goals as increasing public

awareness about issues facing rivers. *American Rivers* has four primary programs: River Heritage, Healthy Waters, Endangered Rivers, and the Blue Trail Initiative.

In the River Heritage program, AR works with communities on rivers that are showing decline and helps small grass roots organizations connect with each other. AR is promoting the Healthy Waters Bill to reenact the Clean Water Act, which addresses issues such as dam relicensing and development of local sewage systems. *American Rivers* issues The Most Endangered Rivers Report each April. The Blue Trails Initiative is helping create and



promote a system of connected river trails.

FFVers who would like to become involved with American Rivers can check their website-  
[www.AmericanRivers.org](http://www.AmericanRivers.org)

and sign up to be advocates for dam removal, in-stream flow studies, the Wild and Scenic Act, stopping fish kills, and creating connections with land trusts to protect rivers.

## From the Conservation Chair:

A top issue for FORVA is river and trail access. We are losing river access all over Virginia and have proposed updating and modernizing an MOU that was done in 1981 between DCR, DGIF and VDOT that encourages agency cooperation on access. Jeff Corbin in the Sec. of Natural Resources office is working on this MOU.

Jeff has modernized the MOU and has just met with the Nick Donohue, Asst. Sec. of Transportation and has already shown the draft to DCR and DGIF. The draft is now waiting on comments from the Sec. of Transportation and VDOT.

A second area of access is to be able to cross railroad tracks, and FORVA is supporting a bill for a Rail Authority. This bill would help direct railroads towards more passenger service, reduced highway need, less sprawl, more energy



efficiency and more pedestrian crossings... in other words, greater public interest input along with the millions we give the railroads. The bill was put in by Sen. John Edwards and made it through the Senate, but died in the House. There is also no great support from Gov. Kaine, so this needs some work to pass.

Virginia already has a Port Authority and an Airport Authority.

Hope you will all be aware and will be ready to help if the opportunity arises.

Remember, if we don't have access to our rivers, we don't know what's going on!

*Bill Tanger*

## Fly Ash Issue: An Update

While the battle over fly ash in Giles County is still brewing, other localities in Virginia are working toward resolution. Below is an excerpt from The Virginian-Pilot on August 21, 2008. While it appears that resolution is on its way for residents around the Battlefield Golf Club, residents of

Giles County are still waiting.

*"A Dominion Virginia Power executive told residents living near a golf course made of fly ash that it would pay the \$4 million to \$6 million that city officials preliminarily have estimated it will cost to extend city water to affected residents.*

*"We're set to cover that," said J. David Rives, a Dominion senior vice president, to the applause of more than 100 people at an occasionally feisty meeting Wednesday evening at United House of Prayer, about a half-mile from Battlefield Golf Club at Centerville.*

*(continued on page 6)*

## Fly Ash update

(continued from pg 5)

*"We are committed to make that happen, not because we are saying at this point there is a problem we are trying to fix," Rives added. "We're trying to get ahead of it."*

*The meeting was another in a series of informational briefings for residents living near the golf course, which was built from 1.5 million tons of fly ash from Dominion's coal-fired power plant in the Deep Creek section of the city.*

*Fly ash, a powdery residue left from the burning of coal for electrical power, contains heavy metals such as arsenic, lead and mercury that can pose environmental threats to air and water. There are roughly 200 potable wells*



Giles County, VA map detail (above) courtesy of Google maps

*within about a half mile of the course."*

In more recent news, The FFV has sent a letter to Giles County expressing its opposition to the use of fly ash along the New River, with a copy to Friends of the New River. The FFV joins FORVA, FONR and other groups in expressing concern about this awful location for the disposal of fly ash. Concerned residents

of Giles County attended a meeting on August 13th to discuss their fly ash issues with members of the EPA. The details of that meeting have not yet been released. For more information on fly ash issues in Giles County, please check out their website at:

<http://www.concernedgilescitizens.org/>



## 2008 FFV State Calendar

### Highland County Maple Festival

3/7/08-3/9-08

Rivers in the area

Contact Scotts Creekers who will be located at Douthat State Park, Creasy Lodge

### Roanoke River Clean Up

4/5/08

Contact Roanoke Chapter for details

### Head Suckin'

4/26/08

Contact Randy Carter members for tickets and details

### Appomattox River Clean Up

5/3/08

Contact Jay Graves or Bill Brittin, Dickel Chapter

### Rockfish River Clean Up

5/17/08

Contact Ginny and Bob Peck, Dickel Chapter

### Memorial Weekend 5/23/08-5/26/08

Slate River

Campsite Slate River Property

River tax: \$5.00 per adult; \$10.00 per family

Dinner Hosts: Steve Keller/Dickel chapters

Budget for dinner: \$500.00

Porta Johns: Steve Keller

Budget: Market rate for 5 portas

Meeting 5/25/08 @9 AM

### Summer Float/ Kids' Float 6/14/08

In conjunction with Charlottesville Rec Dept

James River, section to be determined

Campsite Slate River Property

River tax: \$5.00 per adult; \$10.00 per family

Dinner Hosts: Steve Kellers

Budget for dinner: \$500

Porta Johns: Steve Keller

Budget: clean out fee for those budgeted for Memorial Day

### Labor Day Weekend 8/29/08-9/1/08

Maury and James Rivers

Campsite Glen Maury

Camping Fee: \$5.00 per person;

contact Brian Van De Sande

Dinner: provide your own

Dickel Bash 10/4/08

Contact Dickels for tickets and details

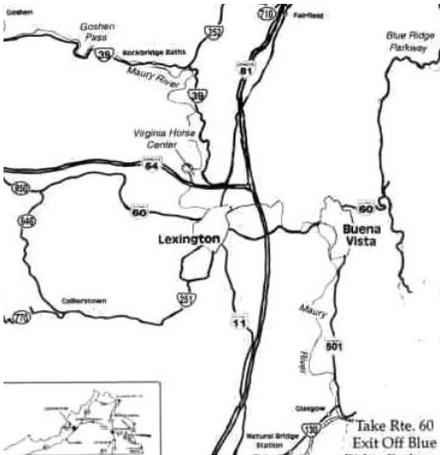
### Winter Meeting 12/6/08



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

<http://www.floatfishermen.org>

[info@floatfishermen.org](mailto:info@floatfishermen.org)



#### **Directions to Labor Day Float:**

**From Roanoke:** Take I-81 North to Buena Vista exit; then take US-60 East to Buena Vista; at Buena Vista, turn right on US-501 South. Turn right on 10th Street and cross the river to Glen Maury Park.

**From Staunton:** Take I-81 South to Buena Vista exit; then take US-60 East to Buena Vista; at Buena Vista, turn right on US-501 South. Turn right on 10th Street and cross the river to Glen Maury Park.



## Welcome New Members!

The Float Fisherman of Virginia welcomes all new 2008 members. In an effort to make sure recognize all members old and new, the complete membership roster will be available in the Fall/Winter Issue.