

FISHIN' POLE, PACK & PADDLE

FLOAT FISHERMEN OF VIRGINIA

SPRING 2013 ISSUE

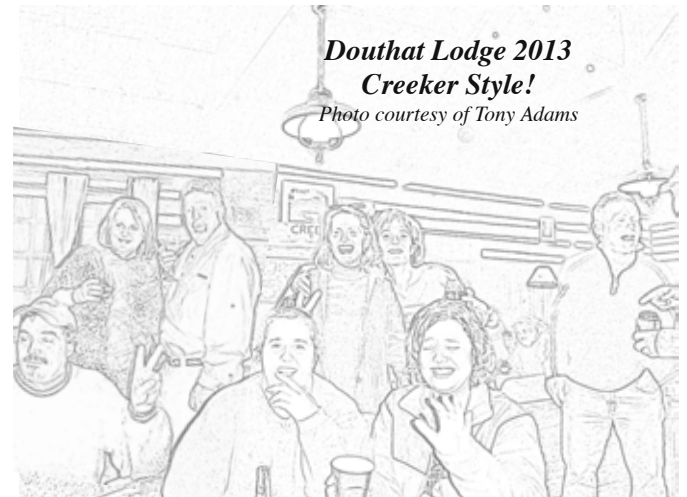
PRESIDENT'S PADDLE



Well, it's spring again and what a great start to the paddle season we've had. The River Gods have blessed us this year so far. On video soon to be released, the following, for the most part, can be seen:

To start, Rick Mattox and this writer caught the perfect level on the Appomattox where every rapid feature was exciting without being washed out (+/- 4.0' USGS - 1 .5' paddler gauge). The break in the first dam was quite a drop and wave, Jug Handle was a blast as well as some of the other unnamed significant rapids. Everything was going so well for this writer as he rounded the turn at the break in the dam just above Virginia State Rapid A. K. A. Target Rock. As it can be seen on the video, that rapid can eat a boater in a flash, sobering for participant and viewer.

Douthat State park was as beautiful as ever and the trip down Back Creek was just plain spectacular! Paddling just above canoe zero- probably around 4 inches, there was only one 'scrapey' place in the rock garden about halfway down. The water was as 'clear as gin' turning slightly turquoise green as we got closer to Lake Moomaw. The sky was as blue as the



Gods could muster. The big drops had some volume yet easy to track through. As stated in that video, a moving postcard! The Saturday night party at the lodge lacked nothing...John Burton should be able to attest to Rock Willoughby's MAD cocktail skills.

Spring Fling was again held on the Rockfish River. Sarah and Kathleen hosted the 72 hour party on their river front property and the Dickel's showed us 'what for'. The Rockfish came up overnight and provided for a fantastic paddle from Rte. 29 to the campsite. There were plenty of entertaining rapids with a few of weight. My boat has never hit a wave like the one at "Bob's Folly" rapid. "Fry Daddy" can attest to the excitement as he was documented performing a self- rescue (bonus points) after turning over at the last bridge rapid.

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CONSERVATION REPORT

RIVER PROJECTS EVERYWHERE!

April 15, 2013

Projects we are working on (and can always use help on)

Roanoke River Access: Everything is going well with lots of visitors and great appreciation for the new access. Next we will be working on improving the put-in upstream.

James River Glasgow access: CSX has given a 20 year lease at no cost for a new put-in Locher Landing. Still need to build a debris shelter under the trestle, but the town of Glasgow has agreed to handle this.

James River Cushaw Take-out access: Now that Glasgow has been settled with CSX, we need to move forward on a better take-out below Balcony Falls. An application for an at-grade crossing will be submitted in the coming months.

James River access at Gala: a new access has been opened up at Gala on the James River. The Botetourt County Blueway Committee is doing great work on access like this.

Dam Safety/Recreation: Working on the Pigg River dam removal. Franklin County bought the dam and gave it to FORVA. Now funds can be raised for study and demolition. The long-term hope is for a whitewater park.

Menhaden issue: The Atlantic Coast Fisheries Commission has voted to order a 20% reduction in the menhaden catch. Tom Miller has done one incredible job on the menhaden issue. Gold star awarded to Tom!

Virginia Invasive Species Committee: Free copies available of the 11" x 17" poster available from Bill Tanger.

Price Park: working on a 45 acre park along Stroubles Creek in Montgomery County. An Eagle Scout project will help us build a footbridge. Still looking for another Eagle Scout to do a kiosk.

Mattaponi needs Randy Carter Gauge: DGIF and county officials have asked for help in creating a gauge for floating on the Mattaponi, along with a river clean-up. Let me know if interested. The clean-up will be this spring.



REPORT IDENTIFIES 320 POTENTIAL ACCESS SITES ALONG BAY, TRIBUTARIES

FROM THE BAY JOURNAL'S MARCH 2013 ISSUE

Reported by Bill Tanger, Conservation Chair

The just released Chesapeake Bay Public Access Plan has identified a critical need for better access to the bay and its tributaries and has a target list of 320 possible sites. This report was done by the National Park Service as part of President Obama's Chesapeake Executive Order.

As part of this initiative, the Chesapeake Conservancy has kicked off a campaign called "Freedom to Float" in conjunction with other nonprofits, recreational groups and small businesses. The campaign seeks to build public support for getting more access sites developed.

John Davy, formerly of Virginia's Dept of Conservation and Recreation, and a former FORVA steering committee member, was a key player in developing the report. The Bay Journal article includes the following statement:

"Funding is the most cited obstacle to increasing access, but there are other problems, too. Railroad tracks along many tributaries create a barrier to reaching the water, and railroad companies are reluctant to allow crossings because of liability concerns."

This is language that FORVA worked to see included in the report and refers directly to projects like the Cushaw Project access on the James. The Float Fishermen may want to help support the "Freedom to Float" campaign with some volunteer help.

Contact Conservation Chair Bill Tanger if interested.

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, criticism and compliments are always welcome.

OTHER RIVER NEWS

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PRESIDENT'S PADDLE

(continued from page 1)

That night the food never stopped and the 'Wang' kept a' wangin' – thank you Conrad. Oh, and what do you do for someone's birthday as a 'Dickel'...why- you drink a bottle of George Dickel of course! Happy birthday Bob Peck.

We're really looking forward to The Memorial Day Float and River Clean-up at the Slate River Partner's Property...live music Saturday night; hoping to put together a small' corn hole tourney' if anyone is interested...contact Tony Adams antonadams@comcast.net or through our FFV website. Let's hope there is some water on the Slate - another beautiful run. I'm hoping to show the Spring '13 paddle videos Saturday night with a little help from Conrad.

The Kid's Float is still scheduled for June 22nd and we are looking for a good turnout from both volunteers and kids. This trip is always fun and rewarding. Please get involved, Erica, Ginnie and all the volunteers work especially hard to pull this event off and really need our support.

TTFN and see ya' on da' riva' !

Tony



2013 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE OVERDUE!

Contact your chapter treasurer today for more details.



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RIVER CLEANUP 2013

ROCKFISH RIVER - GEORGE DICKEL CHAPTER



*Staff report, from the Nelson County News Advance
Monday, March 25, 2013*

The George Dickel chapter of the Float Fisherman of Virginia enjoyed the warm weather in mid-March with a Sunday canoe trip down the Rockfish River in Nelson County, from Highway 29 to the Drumheller bridge. The conservation and social club members help clean up rivers on each float by picking up trash along the way. This trip was no different, with members collecting many garbage bags full of trash and disposing of it properly.

SPECIAL NOTICE

If you have received a printed copy of this newsletter, we do not have an email address on file for you OR you have elected to receive your newsletter by standard mail. If you would like to receive future issues of the newsletter via email, please send your address to your local chapter treasurer or to our state membership chair at membership@floatfishermen.org.

No action is needed if you prefer to continue receiving your newsletter via standard mail.

2013 TRIP & CLEAN-UP SCHEDULE

Appomattox River Clean-up: 5/4
Contact Ginnie Peck, George Dickel Chapter

Kid Float & River Clean-Up: Saturday 6/22
Contact: Erica Sims, George Dickel Chapter

Labor Day Weekend & River Clean-up: 8/30 - 9/2
Location: Solitude

River Tax: \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per family
Saturday Night Entertainment - Details to come!

FFV Meeting: Sunday 9/1 @ 9:00 am.
Contact: Tony Adams, Scotts Creek Chapter

A complete schedule is available on the state website.

JOIN US FOR MEMORIAL DAY!

May 24-27, 2013

Location: Slate River Property • River Tax: \$5.00 per person/\$10.00 per family

Live Music and Potluck Dinner Saturday Night!

Music by Timi Ryalls & Harry Faulkner • Dinner @6:00 PM

FFV Meeting: Sunday 5/26 @ 9:00am

Contact: Tony Adams, Scotts Creek Chapter