Fishing Pole Pack & Paddle
Fall 2019

Greeting Fellow Paddlers,
I hope everyone is enjoying their summer although it’s almost come to an end, but there is still time to paddle. So, hook your camper up or pack your tent and head out. Bear and I spent the night on the Slate not long ago with no bugs to speak of and cooler temps at night. I got some good photos of the lower field covered with spider webs that I’ll have to show you. I’ve had a couple of good floats lately with Jack Hall and Fry Daddy, just down at the Huguenot Bridge was great fun.

As you head out on the rivers be so aware of the strainers out there. They can be so dangerous for boaters and sometimes seem to sneak up on you. River safety should always be on your mind. Also, be mindful of all the garbage that collects and pick up and recycle as much as possible. Leave it better than you find it!!

Just a reminder, please remember to pay your dues to the Chapter Treasurers. Refer to the website for their individual e-mail addresses if you have questions.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at Solitude on Labor Day weekend, which isn’t far way. A new put in and take out! Let’s pray for the weather to turn out good for us.

Call me anytime if you need me.
Happy Stroking,
Rock
**Currents and Eddies 8-1-2019**

**James River** – Balcony Falls Take-out (Amherst County): FORVA is in the process of getting a VDOT permit for the entrance off Rt 501. We met with VDOT and did a survey and now have to get a decision from VDOT and the USFS on removing a large tree that blocks the line-of-sight. Lots more to come! --- Bill Tanger, Tom Miller & Howard Kirkland

**Roanoke River** – Rutrough Point Access (Roanoke County): FORVA got VDOT to spend $150,000 on 3 new culverts and 1,000 feet of Fleximat to control erosion at Rutrough Point. Work now will start to re-build the stone wall damaged by Hurricane Michael. --- Bill Tanger

**Pigg River Dam Removal (Franklin County):** The Pigg River runs free, except for strainers! FFV members helped cut strainers out of the river, but much more work is needed. Anyone interested in chainsaw work in the river please contact me. New Pigg River access parking lot was just finished. Meanwhile, a huge logjam has been created up against the VDOT highway bridge abutments. VDOT is working on removal. --- Bill Tanger FFV: Mo Byrd, Duck Stanley, Ray Williams & Pat Williams

**New River** - Price Park (Montgomery County): The 50-acre park along Stroubles Creek in Montgomery County is open. We just put in a stone bench, a wooden bench and a picnic table on the trails. Volunteers welcome. Now starting work on a pedestrian bridge across Stroubles Creek. -- Randi Lemmon, Rick Roth and Bill Tanger
Roanoke River – Blueway (Roanoke County): FORVA is co-chair of the Roanoke River Blueway Committee. Roanoke is one of the few cities to have both a greenway and a blueway, and both run along the Roanoke River! king on improved access at the Bridge Street location. --- Bill Tanger &amp; FFV Roanoke Chapter

Big Otter River (Bedford County): We are looking at a possible purchase of a property for river access on the Big Otter River near Rt 460. FORVA will be making an offer on the property. The assessed value of the property is $15,000. Our offer will be $7,500, or half of the assessed value. Stay tuned. --- Tanger, Howard Kirkland; FFV: Lee Williams, Mick &amp; Maryann Overstreet

Tinker Creek Restoration: (Roanoke City): Major restoration project on Tinker Creek in Roanoke coming up after 40,000 fish killed in 2016 due to chemical spill. Restoration hopefully to include removal of at least one dam and possibly three.

-------- Bill Tanger
Notes from the FFV meeting 26 May 2019 @ Slate River Property

President Rock called the meeting to order & thanked all who helped make the pot luck Saturday night a success.

Minutes of last meeting approved as written in last newsletter. Treasurer reported planning to change one CD to higher rate as soon as it matures. The rest of the report was approved as presented.

Membership reports 114 members/families including 3 joining @ meeting. Estimated number of adults is about 150 with spouses but does not include children. Membership has been declining each year. It is frustrating some members don’t pay dues until very late in the year. If you would like a copy of the membership list email Scott McEwen.

Newsletter thanks everyone for sending in pictures and info. Please send new pics and articles 2 weeks before the first of the next month.

Conservation reports condition of bay & rivers declined a little this year. May be due to all the rain this past year.

Land & water conservation fund made permanent. Money from off shore oil must be used for conservation projects. You can get copies of the Bay Journal at www.bayjournal.com or The Bay Journal, P.O. Box 222, Jacobus, PA 17407-0222. No charge but donations accepted. VDOT overview of bridge projects not advertised to public as well as could be.

Pig River dam removal progressing. May be done by August. Roanoke erosion wall blown out by Hurricane Michael replacement may receive about $40,000.00 help from FEMA.
Notes from the FFV meeting 26 May 2019 @ Slate River Property continued

FFV Foundation will discuss opportunity to purchase property on Big Otter River after this meeting.
DCR has some money to get road with parking off Route 501 below Balcony Falls. Plans still moving forward. Need to get VDOT permit.
FORVA received a Silver Award from the Governor’s office for Jae Valley Park project on Back Creek which runs into the Roanoke River. It was given out at “Environmental Virginia” which holds an annual environment event at VMI in Lexington.

Old Business:

Reb Stewart, 1971 FFV founder from the Tidewater Chapter has been living in Florida for the past 20 years or so has been visiting in the area.

New Business:

Rock County, WI has been involved in a major rescue event involving many, many organizations to rescue 4 canoeists overturned near a strainer. One of those rescued has died.

Please review and practice all safety measures while on the water. One young lady became pinned on a log during one of our paddles.

Discussed a public, open face-book page for FFV. Loren & Catherine will get a plan to present @ Labor Day Float.

Plan to show safety DVD “The Drowning Machine” @ Labor Day float.
2019 Schedule of Events

Douthat Weekend: 4/5/19 – 4/7/19
Location: Douthat State Park
Contact Rick Mattox for information.

Dickel Spring Fling: 4/12/19 – 4/14/19
Location: Peck Place on the Rockfish
Contact Ginnie Peck for information.

R5 Cajun Weekend: 4/26/19 – 4/28/19
This is a ticket event: $40 per person
Contact Ed Galloway for tickets: ewgalloway@verizon.net

Memorial Weekend: 5/24/19 – 5/27/19
Meeting on Sunday at 9:00am at the campsite.
Location: Smith River in Henry County
A scouting trip will be arranged for this Spring. A final determination will be made to use this location.
Backup plan: Slate River Property
River tax: $5 per person or $10 per family.

Porta Johns:
*Rick Mattox made a motion that the budget for Porta Johns be $500. Rock Willoughby 2nd the motion. Motion passed.*
Porta John arrangements to be made by Bryon Jones.
if camping in Henry County. Ginnie Peck will make arrangements if camping at Slate River Property.
Slate River mowing fee: $75

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FFV EVENTS CALENDAR

Labor Day weekend: 8/30/19 – 9/2/19
Meeting on Sunday at 9:00am at the campsite.
Location: Solitude on the James River.
River tax: $5 per person or $10 per family.
Porta Johns: To be arranged by Bill Tanger with a $400 budget.

Dickel Bash – To Be Determined

Winter Meeting: Saturday 12/7/19
Location: Slate River Property
Meeting Starts at 11:00am

Fruit Cake Float– January 1, 2020
Contact Konrad Zeller
Details TBD

Other Major Events: Bateau Festival
6/14/19 – 6/21/19
Can find information at James River Bateau Festival site online
Pictures from the Memorial Day get together!
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The opinions expressed in FPP&P are those of the author’s and not necessarily those of FFV or its members. The editor is responsible for editing the content of the newsletter and its construction. Members are responsible for providing content. Please send submissions to the editor via email attachment. The following formats are preferred: Word, RFT, and/or JPEG. The newsletter goes out quarterly: Feb 1, May 1, August 1, Nov 1. **All Submissions MUST be received by the 15th of the preceding month.**

**If you receive this newsletter via US Mail, we do not have a current email address for you. Contact your local treasurer or the Membership Chair to update your information.**

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