



## FFV State Officers

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**Annual Dues:** Due January each year

- \$20.00 per Individual or per Family (spouse & children 0-18)
- Individual chapters may have additional annual dues.
- Contact your CHAPTER Treasurer to pay dues
- Please, DO NOT send dues to Membership Chair or State Treasurer

### **Chapter Treasurers:**

**George Dickel Chapter:** Ginnie Peck

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\*\* No Internet Access & need to contact your Chapter Treasurer to pay dues: Please call Ginnie Peck @ 434-962-3224 \*\*

# Fishing Pole Pack & Paddle Spring 2017

Hey Guys and Gals!

Spring has officially sprung, which means we can finally pull out the bathing suits and sunscreen. We had some truly awesome events throughout April and I hope you all had a chance to get out and enjoy them. The Spring Fling on the Rockfish was a blast and I want to thank the McEwen men (Mike, Scott & Andy) for smoking up some stellar barbecue. Also, if you've never been to the R-5 Cajun weekend I would highly recommend putting it on your calendar for next year. Who doesn't love Crawfish?

As we enter into May we've got the Memorial Day weekend on the Slate River fast approaching and I'd like to encourage you all to attend. It is typically our largest gathering of the year and a great way to meet or reconnect with other paddlers. It has also been known to be a pretty epic weekend of boating and partying with old & new friends alike. Turnout is especially important this year as we have some important club business to discuss and possibly vote on. Included in these discussions will be a marginal Dues increase ( I am suggesting \$5) as well as the potential formation of an FFV scholarship. We need member feedback to ensure we're all on the same page and that the club is headed in the right direction. The Memorial Day meeting will be held at 9am Sunday May 28th at the Slate River property pavilion.

Last but not least I would like to remind everyone about the James River Batteau Festival coming up June 17th-24th. The festival covers 120 miles of the James over 8 days from Lynchburg to Richmond and is a great way to explore new stretches of the river. There is a designated camp site for each night with easy car access, portable toilets and a food vendor selling dinner. There are also several stores to resupply your beverage coolers throughout the week. You can find more info at <http://www.vacanals.org/batteau/> Come on out and represent the Float Fisherman!

See you downstream.

-Ryan Bomar



# *Tell your legislators you support efforts to clean up water*

An Article from *The Bay Journal*

“The Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Blueprint is working. By all metrics we are seeing progress. Citizens, businesses and governments are working together to reduce pollution. You can actually see the progress in the clear water.

The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science’s Bay Report Card issued last spring, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s 2016 State of the Bay report and the Bay Program’s Bay Barometer all document improvements. Bay grasses and crabs are up, and the dead zone is trending smaller. While celebrating progress, no one thinks the Bay is saved. Far from it. And, no doubt the recovery we do enjoy is fragile.

In these uncertain times, it is more important than ever that citizens of all walks of life let their elected officials know that the need for clean water is a shared value and important priority. Cleaning up local rivers and streams will reduce risks to human health, create jobs and benefit local economies.

We must insist that our state legislators make the needed investments to reduce pollution; that our governors speak up for the Blueprint; and that our federal representatives ensure the Environmental Protection Agency’s full participation in guiding and implementing the Blueprint.

## **Elected officials do listen to their constituents.**

In early February, more than 50 citizens attended a lobby day at the General Assembly in Richmond supporting the CBF, James River Association, Lynnhaven River NOW and other clean water allies.

Liz Worsham and her husband, Brad, traveled 70 miles from the Northern Neck to Richmond to meet with their state legislators. “We are concerned about clean water because we like to swim in our creek, for starters, and kayak and fish. My husband hunts. It’s really important for the businesses in the area and for the watermen,” Liz Worsham said. “This is a great opportunity to have an impact and express my views to my representatives.”

The most effective way to be heard is to visit a politician in his or her office or to speak up at a town hall meeting. Politicians will take note.

Other effective ways are to write your representatives or call their district offices.

In these uncertain times, two facts are certain. One: The desire for clean water unites us, regardless of age or political persuasion. Two: Elected officials need voter support. We can make a difference.

I urge all Bay Journal readers to go on the record — our job of restoring the Chesapeake and its rivers and streams is far from done. We must push forward.”



## *Fences and trees for clean, clear rivers*

An Article from *The Bay Journal*



Cattle cool off, wallow, defecate, urinate in streams as well as trample up and down their banks. (Dave Harp)

“The Shenandoah Valley’s Middle River, which begins its winding journey to the Chesapeake Bay in the farm country west of Staunton, Va., is one of the most polluted rivers in the state. That’s the bad news. The good news: We have seen firsthand how the river, with a little help from farmers, can heal itself. By simply fencing cattle out of streams and planting trees along the banks, we have turned our farm into a bacteria filter, cutting *E. coli* bacteria levels by nearly a third as the river flows through our property.

The Middle River, which eventually flows into the South Fork Shenandoah River and then the Potomac, has been on Virginia’s “dirty-waters list” for more than 20 years, because it exceeds the state standard for *E. coli*. It also violates the state’s General Standard, meaning there is so much sediment in the water the river cannot support a healthy aquatic ecosystem.

There is hope for turning that around.

Continued on next page.



## *Fences and trees for clean, clear rivers*

When the river enters our farm, the average E. coli level is 2,471 colony-forming units (CFU) per 100 milliliters of water. That is more than 10 times Virginia's standard for E. coli, which is 235 CFU/100mL.

But a remarkable thing happens over the course of the farm's half-mile stretch of river. By the time the river leaves our property, the average E. coli level has been reduced 30.6 percent to 1,715 CFU/100mL.

While that's still pretty polluted, it is a huge improvement. What's happening? Here's the story.

While the river begins just six miles upstream from us, by the time it enters our farm it's 19 feet across, far too wide to jump across. When the weather is cold, the water is crystal clear. But when it's warm out, it looks like chocolate milk.

The cause of the pollution is obvious. Cattle cool off in waterways upstream, where they wallow, defecate, urinate and trample up and down stream banks.

The trampling dislodges soil from the riverbank and bottom, giving the water its chocolate color. This murky water, full of suspended soil particles, harms aquatic life by clogging the gills of fish, smothering eggs and blocking sunlight needed by underwater vegetation. And of course the manure deposited by livestock in and near the stream is the source of fecal coliform bacteria and nutrients. This devastating contamination fuels algae blooms, which further cloud the water and rob it of its life-giving oxygen. The bacteria can also cause illnesses, in livestock and humans alike.

Years ago the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) met with the landowners in our community to inform us that the river was polluted. They told us that most of the pollution was caused by livestock having access to the river and its tributaries.

"It's not us," many farmers responded. "You'll have to prove it."

So the DCR set out to prove it. They worked with a private company and James Madison University to track down the source of the bacteria. They collected water samples from the river and feces from the land, grew cultures from each to see whose bacteria from the land matched up to the bacteria in the water.

They determined that 94 percent of the fecal matter in our river came from livestock. It was proven with empirical data — not a model.

On our farm, we fenced cattle out of the river in 2004 and planted native trees and shrubs along the banks. Many of those trees are now more than 15 feet tall. It's a joy to walk in the shade along the river and see beautiful native flowers such as jewelweed, goldenrod, and grand lobelia.

These trees and shrubs do so much for the river. They shade the water, stabilize the stream banks and provide food and habitat for wildlife.

The pollution reduction in our meager half-mile of the river boils down to two simple points. First, we don't have any cows in the river. Second, the trees and shrubs, known as riparian buffers, reduce erosion and help the aquatic ecosystem function.



## *Fences and trees for clean, clear rivers*

There's no shortage of data showing that riparian buffers make for healthier streams and rivers. Scientists from Pennsylvania's Stroud Water Research Center, for example, determined that a stream flowing through forested buffers is two to eight times more capable of processing in-stream nitrogen pollution than a stream without trees and shrubs along its banks.

Not only do the trees and shrubs stabilize the soil and prevent erosion, the leaves of trees fall into the water and provide food for multitudes of critters that thrive in the water. These leaves are the corn silage of the aquatic ecosystem.

If we can get a 30 percent reduction in E. coli in half a mile, think what five miles or 100 miles could do. It doesn't matter if that pollution comes from a wastewater treatment plant, a malfunctioning septic field or the back end of a cow.

The bottom line is we can cut a lot of pollution in our rivers if we buffer them with trees and shrubs, and keep the cows out. Our little half-mile on the Middle River shows that it's just that simple."

*-Courtesy of The Bay Journal*



## 2017 FFV Events

All Events & Event Sites w/directions & Maps can be found on the Web Page:

<http://www.floatfishermen.org/events.html>

1. Dickel Groundhog Float: February 5 at Balcony Falls  
Contact: Ryan Bomar: southernboy4u07@aol.com
2. Dickel Winter Float: February 25 or 26 at Balcony Falls  
Contact Ginnie Peck: dickels.treasurer@gmail.com
3. Dickel Spring Fling @ the Peck's on the Rockfish: April 7 - 9  
Contact: Ginnie Peck: dickels.treasurer@gmail.com
4. Douthat State Park: April 21 - 23 / Contact: Rick Mattox @ rdmattox@verizon.net
5. Cajun Weekend @ R5: April 28 - 30 / Contact Ed Galloway for tickets:  
ewgalloway@verizon.net
6. **Memorial Weekend @ the Slate River Property: May 26 - 29 (SEE Directions Below)**  
**Contact: Ginnie Peck: dickels.treasurer@gmail.com**
7. FFV Summer Float: TBA
8. Labor Day Weekend @ Solitude: September 1 - 4  
Contact Bill Tanger: bill.tanger@verizon.net
9. Dickel Bash @ Slate River Property: September 22 - 24  
Contact: Ginnie Peck: dickels.treasurer@gmail.com
10. FFV Winter Meeting @ Slate River Property: Saturday December 2, 2017
11. Fruit Cake Float: January 1, 2018 / Contact: Konrad Zeller: kzeller@rivanna.org

### **Directions to Slate River Property for Memorial Weekend**

**Physical Address: 10330 Bridgeport Road / Arvonnia, VA 23004**

**Directions w/Maps from Web Page: <http://www.floatfishermen.org/page.html>**

**From Richmond:** Take Route 6 River Road West (from downtown that's 64 West to the Oilville exit South on 617 Oilville Road, right on 250 West Broad Street Road, Left on 632 Fairgrounds Road, right on Route 6, go West), follow to Fork Union, stay straight on Route 15 James Madison Hwy, cross the James, after roughly 1.5 mi. take a right on Route 652 and cross the Slate River. Driveway will be first left.

**From Charlottesville:** Take Route 20 South through Scottsville and across the James River. Turn Left onto Route 652 (Bridgeport Road). Follow approximately 9 miles and turn right into field. If you cross the Slate river, you have gone a half mile too far.

**From Lynchburg:** Take Route 60 East to Route 15 (James Madison Highway)North. Turn left on Route 652 (Bridgeport road) at Arvonnia. Route 652 and cross the Slate River. Driveway will be first left.

# *Editor's Note*

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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