

# FISHIN' POLE, PACK & PADDLE

**FLOAT FISHERMEN OF VIRGINIA**

**SPRING 2012 ISSUE**

## **NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM UPDATE**

On December 15th, 2011, Congress passed an Omnibus Bill that included extending the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) through May 2012. During this 6-month window, Congress will be working on to reform NFIP.

A new Senate Banking Committee bill (S.1940), called the National Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act (NFIRMA) would better protect floodplains from development and protect environmentally sensitive habitat. The House has already passed such a bill. The Senate Banking Committee just recently reported out the bill to the full Senate.

Key elements of the bill include:

- A 4-year phase-in of rates towards actuarial, which means that the NFIP will no longer subsidize irresponsible development of the floodplain and environmentally sensitive areas.
- A Technical Mapping Council with members of various stakeholder agencies like EPA, FWS, NOAA, etc. that will set mapping criteria to ensure that flood maps take into account increased weather patterns, sea level rise, hydrologic impacts of fill and more.
- A mitigation section that creates a \$90 million mitigation fund to help strengthen properties and when possible, relocate them out of the floodplain
- A requirement that areas of residual risk—those protected by dams or levees—must purchase flood insurance
- The creation of a Commission to study natural catastrophe risk management and insurance

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was intended to reduce flood risk, encourage smart floodplain management, and provide affordable flood insurance. However, the program has instead spurred development and redevelopment on the nation's coastlines and floodplains, damaging the environment and encouraging placement of homes and businesses in high-risk and environmentally sensitive areas.

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## **2012 DUES ARE PAST DUE!**

**It's that time of year again!  
Please send your payments to your chapter  
treasurer.**

**We look forward to seeing you on the river!**

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# CONSERVATION REPORT

## RIVER PROJECTS EVERYWHERE!

- Projects we are working on: (and can always use help on)
- Jackson River Kings Grant/Trespass Lawsuit: brief just filed on 4/9/12, and the arguments look good to me. We have raised just over \$36,000 so far for legal work. The bills are up to \$50,000!
- Price Park: working on a 45 acre park along Stroubles Creek in Montgomery County. As with Whitt-Riverbend Park, we will need to raise some funds. Did a big stream cleanup last week.
- Virginia Invasive Species Committee: Printed 2500 copies (11" x 17") of the FORVA initiated poster. Distribution going well. Free copies available for cost of postage.
- Roanoke River Access: Excellent progress on public access on the Roanoke at Explore Park. Just brought in 18 railroad ties for our steps/slide and working on more! The parking lot is almost done as well. There will be a \$2 per day parking fee or \$20 per year.
- Albemarle/Pamlico Basin: will attend a 2nd workshop in NC on ecology and problems of Albemarle/Pamlico basin (includes Roanoke River), especially sea level rise.
- James River access: working with CSX on donation of land for put-in at Locher Landing. Got a new culvert put in and fencing put up. Need CSX to resolve land issue. Then we will need to build a debris shelter under the trestle.
- Dam Safety: Helping to create group to work on the Blackwater Dam fatalities. Working on the Pigg River dam removal.
- Menhaden issue: The Atlantic Coast Fisheries Commission has voted to order a reduction in the menhaden catch. They are working on the details. Virginia still opposes any reduction since Omega (the menhaden company) pays tens of thousands in payola money to our governor and legislators.

If you would like more info, let me know.

Bill Tanger

Conservation Chair



### **REFORM UPDATE (continued from page 1)**

Nationally, average annual flood damages have been rising alarmingly, and in the wake of seven major Gulf Coast hurricanes in 2004 and 2005, including Hurricane Katrina, the program has accumulated an almost insurmountable debt to the U.S. Treasury of nearly \$19 billion.

FORVA and the Water Protection Network (WPN) are working to reform the NFIP, reduce flood risk and protect natural floodplain functions and ecosystems. We are pressing Senate leadership to bring NFIRMA to the floor for a vote. With the House having already passed a bill, the ball is in the Senate's court to vote on the legislation.

Act now to contact your senators and urge their support for NFIRMA (S. 1940).

Bill Tanger

FORVA and WPN

## URANIUM MINING REPORT : NEEDS MORE WORK

On December 19, 2010, the FFV attended the public hearing on the Uranium Report. Attending were Tony Adams and Tom Miller. We obtained a hard copy of the report which Bill Tanger reviewed.

Our strongest impressions of the report: (we have added emphasis where we felt it was needed)

1. While the study was done by the National Research Council, the entire study was funded by self-interested parties, both foreign and domestic. Their interests seem intrinsically to be in conflict with an objective report.

Funding came from Virginia Uranium and the study was by contract with the Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research.

2. The “Best Practices” for mining were analyzed in many places – but not Virginia Uranium’s proposed site; not Coles Hill; not Pittsylvania Co.; not Virginia; not even the Bay or the East Coast ...SITE SPECIFIC ANALYSIS WAS NOT ASKED FOR NOR DONE! Period!

In other words, there were no studies done relevant to the site at hand – no groundwater proximity, earthquake, hurricane, flood, average rainfall nor sedimentation studies for that site.

3. “Almost all uranium mining and processing to date has been done in parts of the US that have dry climates with low rainfall. Federal agencies have little experience with wet climates like Virginia.”

4. “Uranium mining in Virginia would be expected to have significant effects on both on-site and downstream surface water quantity and quality.”

5. “Uranium tailings present a significant potential source of radioactive contamination for thousands of years.”

6. From the report’s Non-Technical Summary, “Conclusions - If the Commonwealth of Virginia removes the moratorium on uranium mining, there are steep hurdles to be surmounted before mining and processing could be established in a way that is appropriately protective of the health and safety of workers, the public and the environment.”

I think this gives you the idea, i.e. there are many risks associated with mining uranium in Virginia. The report is 300 pages long, with lots of examples of problems caused by other uranium mines in the US, Canada and Europe. But it is a report that is not site-specific, so it is limited. More work needs to be done.

There has been and will continue to be an intense lobbying effort by Virginia Uranium to remove the moratorium and then do the site specific studies. Many fear lifting the moratorium will be a “game over” event and regardless of site specific study results, mining will commence.

If there is further interest, we can make a presentation to the club at one of our state meetings and discuss it further.

Finally, if the club wants to take a position opposing the lifting of the uranium mining ban, we can do so as well.

Reporting for Tony, Tom and myself...  
Bill Tanger

## 2012 TRIP SCHEDULE

April 27-29

Cajun Weekend on the Rappahannock

Contact: Randy Carter Chapter

May 25-28

Memorial Day Float

Location: R5

June Date TBD

Kids Float

Location: James River near Tapscott’s Farm

Contact: Erica Sims Goode

August 31 - September 3

Labor Day Float

Location: TBD (Solitude or Slate)

December 1

Winter Meeting

Location: TBD

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Float Fisherman of Virginia would like to thank the following folks for joining our organization:

Dennis Buhman  
Mike Crowley and Ann Meyers  
Greg, Elaine and Allen Dinardo  
Tom Higgins

all of the Richmond area, are now members of the  
Scotts Creek Chapter.

We sincerely appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you on the river.

### 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.



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**FROM CHARLOTTESVILLE:**

Take US 29 North to Culpepper. Take Bus. 29/15 just before Remington. Turn **RIGHT** on SR 673(<.25 mi.). Turn **LEFT** into the campground < .5 mi. after railroad crossing.

**FROM FREDERICKSBURG:**

Take US 17 North towards Warrenton. At Bealeton **LEFT** on SR 28 to US 29/15. **LEFT** on US 29/15(South) past Remington. Turn **LEFT** after crossing Rappahannock River onto Bus. 29/15. Turn **RIGHT** on SR 673(<.25 mi.). Turn **LEFT** into the campground < .5 mi. after railroad crossing.

**FROM WARRENTON:**

US 29 South toward Charlottesville. Turn **LEFT** after crossing Rappahannock River onto Bus. 29/15. Turn **RIGHT** on SR 673(<.25 mi.). Turn **LEFT** into the campground < .5 mi. after railroad crossing.

