

# Fishin' Pole Pack'n Paddle

## Spring 2021

Greetings Fellow Paddlers,

### FFV State Officers

President: Tyler Willoughby

[willoughbys3@hotmail.com](mailto:willoughbys3@hotmail.com)

Vice Presidents:

- Tony Adams: [antonadams@comcast.net](mailto:antonadams@comcast.net)
- Bill Duncan: [wduncan311@yahoo.com](mailto:wduncan311@yahoo.com)
- Erica Goode: [Ericagoode10@gmail.com](mailto:Ericagoode10@gmail.com)
- Bill Tanger: [billtanger@verizon.net](mailto:billtanger@verizon.net)

Secretary: Loren Jacobs

[lorenjacobs32@yahoo.com](mailto:lorenjacobs32@yahoo.com)

State Treasurer: Bryon Jones

[gbj67@aol.com](mailto:gbj67@aol.com)

Membership Chair: Scott McEwen

[ffvbusiness@gmail.com](mailto:ffvbusiness@gmail.com)

Co-Membership Chair: Ginnie Peck

[dickels.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:dickels.treasurer@gmail.com)

Newsletter Editor: Vera Houghton

[houghtonvera@gmail.com](mailto:houghtonvera@gmail.com)

Webmaster: Traci Martin

[traci.martin1970@gmail.com](mailto:traci.martin1970@gmail.com)

Conservation Chair: Bill Tanger

[billtanger@verizon.net](mailto:billtanger@verizon.net)

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

[dickels.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:dickels.treasurer@gmail.com)

Randy Carter Chapter: Ed Galloway

[ewgalloway@verizon.net](mailto:ewgalloway@verizon.net)

Roanoke Valley Chapter: Bill Tanger

[billtanger@verizon.net](mailto:billtanger@verizon.net)

Scotts Creek Chapter: Katherine Waller

[kswaller@hotmail.com](mailto:kswaller@hotmail.com)

Steve Keller Chapter: Bill Chambers

[wchambers72@Verizon.net](mailto:wchambers72@Verizon.net)

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

50 years ago, we saw the creation of The Float Fishermen of Virginia. I am proud to be the "Big Chief". We do a lot to make the rivers cleaner and safer. Also working with legislators for more access.

In the seventies I remember going to a James Watt protest rally in Richmond. A bunch of us floaters came to speak up. Back then we were active and now still carrying the flag. We are the shepherds of these rivers then and now. Those that have passed before us can also be proud of us after 50 years. After all these years I still take pride in helping clean up our rivers and creeks and even in my own neighborhood for the past 25 years.

Jennie and Bob Peck held the Spring Fling at their place on the Rockfish River. It was two days of glorious paddling and camping. Perfect weather with an 80% chance of rain forecast, it was anything but what they said. Enough water and nice 70-degree temperatures. The higher water levels presented us with perfect paddling. No carnage! So, for you bashful paddlers sometimes you just got to go for it. We even had a nice landowner, out of nowhere, help load our boats. I got to see one paddler chase her boat down the river and saw two bears! Wow!

The Memorial Day celebration at R5 is on the Rappahannock. Thanks Steve Smith and the Randy Carter Chapter. (Directions: S out of Remington on 15 - S, Remington Road, cross bridge then first road to the left. ¾ miles then left just past the powerlines ¾ miles look for FFV signs) Gates open Friday, 5/28/21.

Now check your gear for this year's paddling and don't forget your hats and suntan lotion. Maybe a trash bag or two for litter pickup. Leave it better than you find it.

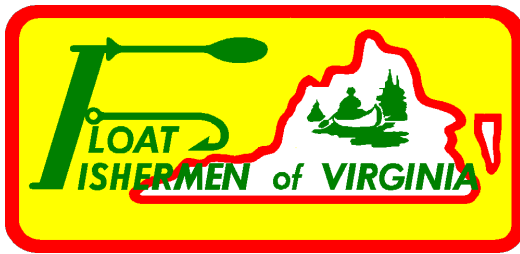
Just a reminder, please remember to pay your dues to the Chapter Treasurers. Refer to the website for their individual e-mail addresses if you have questions.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the river this summer and fall. We are getting back to normal thank goodness.

Here's to another 50 years!

Call me anytime if you need me.

Happy Stroking,  
Rock



## Currents & Eddies Courtesy of Bill Tanger

**James River – Balcony Falls Take-out (Amherst County):** FORVA has the VDOT permit for the entrance off Rt 501. Now setting up a meeting between the US Forest Service, CSX and FORVA, to clarify our agreements to move forward with a Forest Service permit.

--- Bill Tanger & Howard Kirkland

**Roanoke River – Rutrough Point Access (Roanoke County):** Repaired rock wall damages done by Hurricane Michael. Planted 7 trees along the riverbank and put in a fence to protect them. Need to do a revised permit application to update APCo. --- Bill Tanger

**Pigg River Dam Removal (Franklin County):** The Pigg River runs free, except for one huge 250-ton logjam! Planning a chainsaw party around June 1 to cut a channel.

Bill Tanger FFV: Mo Byrd, Duck Stanley, Jim Pickel, Ray Williams & Pat Williams

**New River - Price Park (Montgomery County):** The 50-acre park along Stroubles Creek in Montgomery County is open. Now starting plans for a pedestrian bridge across Stroubles Creek. Volunteers welcome. --- Randi Lemmon and Bill Tanger

**Blackwater River (Franklin County):** FORVA just won a \$90,000 grant to improve a river access at Round Hill in Franklin County. FORVA also bought 4 acres for an access on the Blackwater River at Blue Bend. Hope to get reimbursed with a grant and turn over to the county. -- Bill Tanger

**Roanoke River – Blueway (Roanoke County):** FORVA is co-chair of the Roanoke River Blueway Committee. Plans done for an improved access at the Salem Wayside location.

--- Bill Tanger & FFV Roanoke Chapter

**Big Otter River (Bedford County):** Still working on access purchase on the Big Otter River near Rt 460. FORVA made an offer on the property of \$7,500. The seller is agreeable but must clarify some legal issues. Seller has offered to do a no-cost lease so the FFV can manage the property. --- Tanger; FFV: Kirkland, Lee Williams, Mick & Maryann Overstreet;

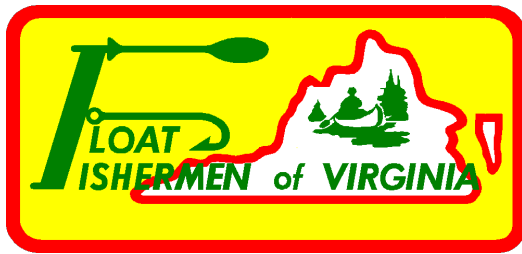
**Tinker Creek Restoration: (Roanoke City):** Remediation has hit a snag as we have found an active sewerline that would be exposed if we removed one of the dams we want to remove.

----- Bill Tanger

**Blackwater River (Franklin County):** Buying an acre of land at the Rt 122 crossing of the Blackwater River to provide parking for river access. Need to get a survey done.

----- Bill Tanger; FFV: Pat Williams, Ray Williams; Creek Freaks of Franklin County

**Blackwater River (Franklin County):** Working on removing a dam on the Blackwater River. Just finished doing a survey of the area for our permit. We have the funds already to go.



# River Access Fees Update

## Courtesy of Bill Tanger

### General Assembly scuttles waterway access fees



Tad Dickens February 11, 2021

A kayaker floats down the James River, looking for a fishing spot in Buchanan. A plan to require a \$4 fee at boat ramps was killed.

A legislative snag for recreational paddlers and tourism concerns snapped on Wednesday, via Virginia budget amendment.

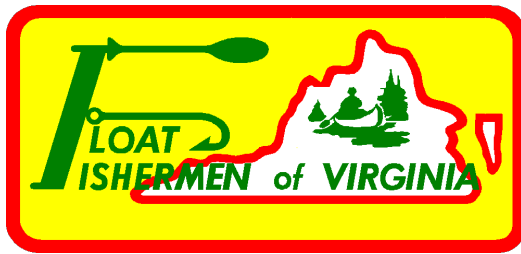
Lawmakers looked to deal with boat ramp parking issues when they voted in February 2020 to institute fees at Department of Wildlife Resources-run boating access ramps. But in what one delegate called an unintended consequence, the fees would have created issues for outfitters and other businesses on commonwealth waterways.

The law would have gone into effect July 1, applying a \$4, one-time access fee for many canoers, kayakers and tubers. The state budget, which the General Assembly released Wednesday, includes an amendment to squelch that fee until next fiscal year, which starts July 1, 2022. Meanwhile, a study group will look at the costs, benefits and impacts on recreational users, then submit a report to the General Assembly by Oct. 1.

That's welcome news for such businesses as Buchanan-based Twin River Outfitters, which runs trips on the upper James, Cowpasture, Jackson and Maury rivers. Twin River's John Mays said the law only came to his attention in December, after one of his employees noticed a sign about it posted at the Springwood Boat Launch. Mays saw the potential for big trouble for his business, which on a nice, in-season day on the James River might host 200 people looking for a leisurely float.

Few if any of those customers age 17 and older would have any of the following, required to avoid buying the one-day pass: a Virginia hunting, trapping or fishing permit; a Restore the Wild membership; or a Department of Wildlife Resources-issued boat registration. Outfitters wouldn't be legally liable for the passes, but employees would have to explain the situation to customers, Mays said. Helping them sign up online, at the business, would be a logistical high jump.

The Department of Wildlife Resources, formerly known as the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, owns one access point and maintains five others in Botetourt County. They include the Springwood launch and the Town of Buchanan Park, the latter right next to Mays' outfitting company. In all, he said, the law would impact 350 landings and about 50 outfitting businesses.



## River Access Fees Update Courtesy of Bill Tanger

The law wouldn't have affected only outfitting businesses, but universities using boats for paddle sports instruction, state park concessionaires and summer camps, as well, Mays said. Other outfitters across the commonwealth want to be heard, too, he said.

DWR's executive director, Ryan Brown, will put together the study group. Del. Terry Austin, R-Botetourt, said he would recommend that Brown appoint Mays or his twin brother and business partner, Dan Mays, among other voices including Friends of the Rivers of Virginia, a Roanoke-based conservation group. That association's chairman, Bill Tanger, said in December that there should be no fee at all to paddle or float.

"If we get invited, we will participate," John Mays said. "We would love that."

Mays, a former Buchanan Town Council member, had taken the issue to Austin and other Botetourt County officials. Austin and three other delegates — Sam Rasoul, D-Roanoke; Betsy Carr, D-Richmond; and Chris Hurst, D-Blacksburg — then sponsored amendments to prevent fee collection for the time being and to assemble the study group.

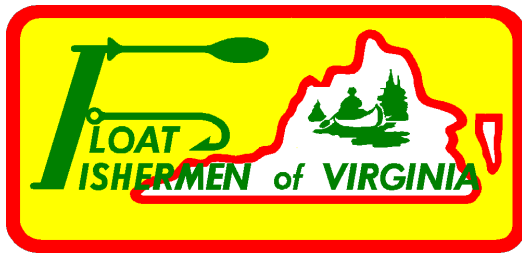
The problem, Austin said, is that parking is insufficient for all the vehicles using boat landings. Many who fill the lots have no permits, creating an unfair situation for those who paid for registration. But the law as passed created an unintended consequence, he said.

"I think we need to address the issue associated with the problem, and that is: We don't have adequate parking for use of the facilities," Austin said. "How we accomplish that capital improvement is what needs to be determined going forward. ... Do they have adequate resources and funding to expand the parking lots, or should there be a capital appropriation, or should there be a tax and a fee placed on canoers and kayaks to fund the necessary improvements to expand and accommodate parking in the lots?"

The House passed the bill, which Del. Hyland "Buddy" Fowler, R-Ashland, sponsored, on Feb. 10, 2020. Austin, Carr and Hurst all voted in favor, part of a 77-21 majority. Rasoul, who said in a December 2020 message exchange that he didn't like adding a fee, voted against it. Fowler was not there the day it passed, and no one spoke on the bill, Austin said.

"Typically we would have discussed that bill in caucus and it would have sent a flag up my pole to question Buddy and probably not vote for the bill," Austin said. "It had gone through [the Agriculture Chesapeake and Natural Resources Committee]. I circled back to some of my friends who serve on that committee, and they said this was ... portrayed as a parking problem, and we just thought everybody would be in favor of fixing the problem, which is somewhat understandable."

It passed the Senate 34-1 11 days later, with only Sen. Amanda Chase, R-Chesterfield, voting against it. Gov. Ralph Northam signed it into law March 12.

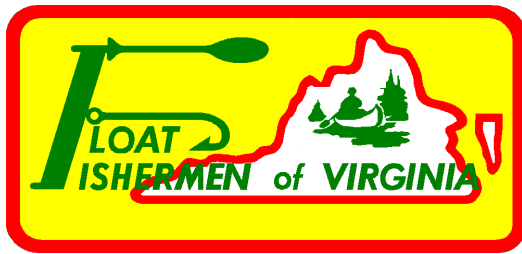


## River Access Fees Update Courtesy of Bill Tanger

What has happened since then is a good example of how “controversial” legislation should be addressed, Austin said. Brown, the DWR director, has been “very agreeable” over the course of multiple conversations, Austin said. Fowler called Austin and said that he understands the approach that his fellow delegates have taken, and he does not disagree.

“When we do something in Richmond that is in error, or is not favorable, or is not in the best interests — naturally, we can’t always be in the best interests of everyone,” he said. “But when it’s determined that there is a public outcry and it’s not perceived to be in the best interest, this is how we should agree to fix this problem.”

River fees - Ro Times 2-11-21



# River Access Fees Update Courtesy of Bill Tanger

April 30, 2021

## Paddler fees on hold: committee to study

The efforts of the FFV, FORVA and others resulted in the paddler fees plan being put on hold while the DWR convenes a committee to study the matter.

DWR will form a committee this summer to evaluate the paddler fee plan and alternate means of fundraising. Let's hope the committee is put together fairly.

Meanwhile, the six groups that did the press release on the effort should be prepared to file suit over the matter if DWR or the committee do not drop the paddler fee plan.

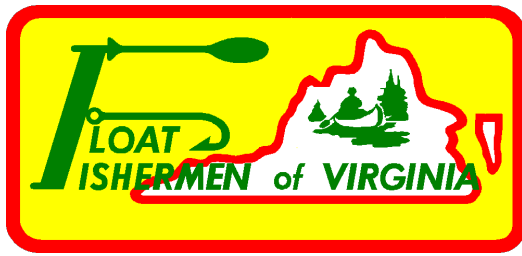
FORVA believes the paddler fee plan is in violation of federal law. See 33 U.S.C. (5)b which "preempts states from imposing fees on vessels (or passengers) operating on navigable waters of the United States."

FORVA plans to send the legal complaint to DWR for its consideration before we actually file it in court. This will give DWR and the state time to evaluate the legal question and decide if the state will drop the fee plan.

We should try to discuss this at the Memorial Day meeting, although I may not be able to make it as my left leg is in a hard cast. Seems I broke my patella while hiking on the Appalachian Trail on April 18. It was a very tough section called "The Roller Coaster".

In any case, call or email with questions or suggestions.

----- Bill Tanger, Conservation Chair



# Project Clean Stream Courtesy of Ginnie Peck

from the Chesapeake Bay Journal

## Small community cleanups add up to a big difference

By Lucy Heller, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Apr 22, 2021

Spring marks the beginning of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's annual program, Project Clean Stream. The Alliance teams up with residents, local businesses, environmental organizations, local governments, community groups, houses of worship, and schools and universities to remove trash from local streams, creeks and rivers. The project has grown considerably over the years and now brings together thousands of volunteers from around the watershed for an entire season of cleanup events.

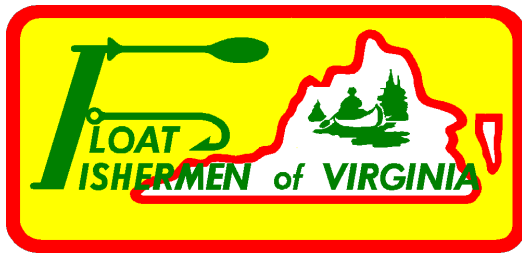
That being said, it's safe to say that

COVID-19 created unexpected challenges last year. However, through it all, the amazing cleanup event leaders, who we call "site captains," and other volunteers were flexible and adapted to the situation. We were able to still host cleanups with some additional safety guidelines and a reduced number of volunteers at each event. We are excited to continue those efforts this spring.

We are proud that we are still able to help prevent trash from entering our waterways as well as maintain a relationship with our partners, community members and volunteers.



These volunteers collected 760 pounds of trash at a Project Clean Stream event at Patuxent River Park near Davidsonville, MD. (Matt McGehrin)



# Project Clean Stream Courtesy of Ginnie Peck

from the Chesapeake Bay Journal

And we are thankful for our site captains who return each year. John Long, who founded a community group called Clean Bread and Cheese Creek, has been running Project Clean Stream events since the early 2000s. John struggles to name only one of his favorite things about the project. “It’s either how streams or parks look after we leave, or it’s the kids,” he said. “They are just so happy to be at a cleanup. Both of those are just incredible.”

John led two cleanups last fall, with about 40 volunteers. They filled more than 100 bags with run-of-the-mill trash, as well as 17 tires, eight scooters, four shopping carts, two office chairs, a box fan, bike, section of chain link fence and a kiddie pool. In an email to his volunteers, John wrote, “Thank you everyone so very much for all your incredible hard work while practicing safe social distancing guidelines! Our volunteer dedication to working toward a cleaner, greener, healthier community and environment is beyond measure!”



A family of volunteers shows off their cleanup spirit at a Project Clean Stream event at Rock Creek Park in Montgomery County, MD. (Blayne Del Priore)

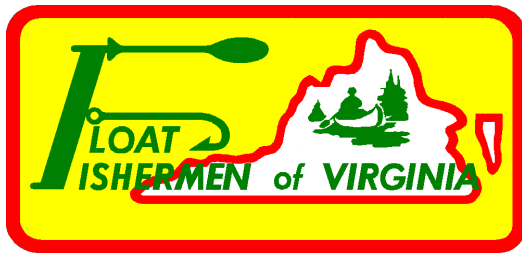
John is running three cleanups this spring in Dundalk, MD, a community just outside of Baltimore that borders Bear Creek, off the Patapsco River.

Project Clean Stream events are a great way to encourage people to get outside and do their part to help their local community. For safety’s sake, we ask everyone who volunteers to wear a mask and stay 6 feet apart from one another.

Geoffery Ely, a volunteer who attended the St. Luke’s Restoration of Nature cleanup on Back Creek in Annapolis, wrote, “It’s good to get down in the dirt sometimes! We are so lucky to have the Restoration of Nature

in the neighborhood, and it feels good to be able to contribute.”





# Project Clean Stream Courtesy of Ginnie Peck

from the Chesapeake Bay Journal

Another volunteer, Abri Sege, who attended a Project Clean Stream event at the Alliance’s headquarters in Annapolis’s Eastport neighborhood, wrote, “Even though I am not from the area, it felt great to be able to help clean up the neighborhood because every bit of trash that we collected helped the environment in the long run.”

Our fall kickoff, which ran September through November, included 35 cleanups throughout the watershed with roughly 260 volunteers — all thanks to the 30 site captains who planned and organized the events. Project Clean Stream wouldn’t be possible without them. Thanks to all of the hard work, we removed more than 15,000 pounds of trash in 2020. Considering the shorter season and the COVID-19 safety restrictions, we consider that an all-out success.

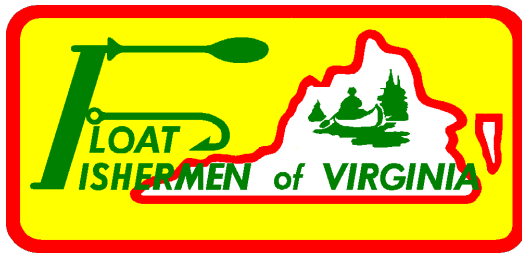
Picking up trash to keep it out of waterways may seem like a small gesture, but it can have a big impact on the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers, which contribute so much to our quality of life. Every piece of trash we collect serves as a reminder that we have a responsibility to protect our shared waters by taking individual action to fight pollution at the source.

Project Clean Stream and the partnerships that make it possible are a shining example of the Alliance’s core attributes. For 50 years, we have been partnering with companies, communities and conservationists to restore the lands and waters of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. In 2021, as we celebrate our 50th anniversary, we hope to continue this effort while maintaining our updated safety guidelines and procedures.

Our 2021 Project Clean Stream sign-ups run through the summer. To learn how to get involved, visit [allianceforthebay.org](https://allianceforthebay.org), click on the “Get Involved” tab and choose “Volunteer.” We hope you can join us in making a difference this spring.

*Lucy Heller is the engagement specialist at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.*

*The views expressed by opinion columnists are not necessarily those of the Bay Journal.*



# Developing the Randy Carter Award

## Courtesy of R.E.B Stewart

In 1974, FFV was at war with the politically powerful US Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps wanted to dam almost every river in Virginia. These projects were mostly unnecessary but designed to make work for the Corps and bring in many “pork barrel” tax dollars from Congress. Every conservation organization in Virginia was with us, and there were many heroes in our ranks.

As the “old soldiers” in the war, we were slowing down, some dynamic young troops joined the fight. One standout was Dr. Dick Skeppstrom, a Norfolk neurologist. Dick was not just a fighter but a bare-knuckle brawler—there were no holds barred.

Dick was in my class in high school. Later, his office was near mine in Norfolk’s Wainwright Building. We often spoke on conservation issues. He was very active in the Coastal Canoeists and a leader in the Conservation Council of Virginia.

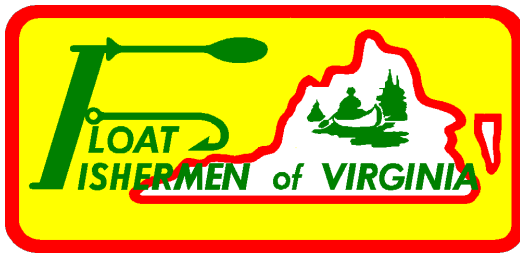
Dick studied the tactics of Randy Carter and Dr. George Brumble, a Fredericksburg Vet, and developed a winning strategy. He deserved recognition.

At the time, I was on the Board of the Virginia Wildlife Federation. Sears sponsored an annual conservation award program. They had awards for wildlife, fish, soil, forests, etc. There was no award so I decided to start one with Dick in mind.

First, I got the OK for a new award from VWE. Next, I needed a committee.

My first eager volunteer was Norfolk attorney Pete Rowe who was the supreme exalted hackle of FFV at the time. He agreed to raise enough money to fund the award in perpetuity. The money poured in quickly.

Next we needed an appropriate trophy statuette like the ones used in the Sears program. They were made by Deaton Museum Studio in Newton, Iowa. Deaton asked for a design sketch.



## Developing the Randy Carter Award Courtesy of R.E.B Stewart

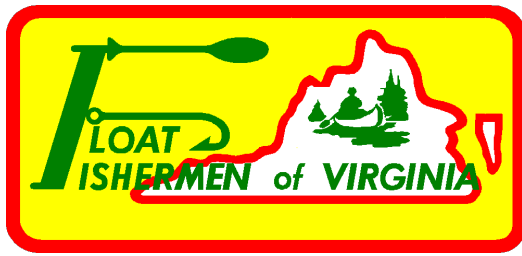
We knew exactly who to call upon for design. It was coastal canoeist Les Fry who was a professional artist. He recruited then Coastal President Bobby Meeks—a professional photographer.

In my back yard, we propped the stern of my 17' Grumman. Les jumped knelt down and posed with his Norse paddle in hand. Bobby fired away. We sent these photos to Deaton along with other whiewater scenes.

The result was amazing. In the foot long statuette everything was perfect. You could almost count the rivets. The paddler looked exactly like Les, right down to the goatee.

Dick was thrilled to accept it at the VWF Awards Banquet. It was awarded to many outstanding River Conservationists of the Year over the years.

Unfortunately, we lost Dick way too soon. Now, his son proudly displays the award.



# Fishin' Pole Pack'n Paddle Trip Schedule

## 2021 Trip and Event Schedule

### Memorial Weekend:

5/28 to 5/31

Location: R5 (Kelly's Ford section of the Rappahannock River)

GPS Address: 13300 Newby's School Road, Remington, VA 22734

Contact: Don Leeger [donleeger@aol.com](mailto:donleeger@aol.com)

### Directions:

#### 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 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.

#### From Fredericksburg:

Take US 17 West toward Warrenton.

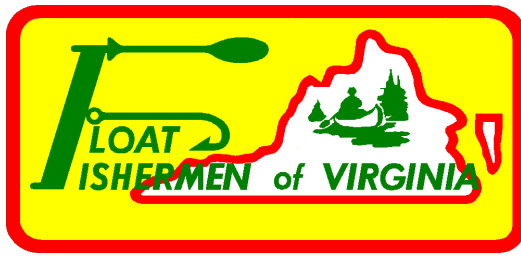
At Bealeton LEFT on SR 28 to US 29/15.

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.



# Fishin' Pole Pack'n Paddle Trip Locations and Directions

## Labor Day Weekend:

9/3 to 9/6

Location: Solitude

GPS Address: 1571 Solitude Road, Buchanan, VA 24066

Contact: Bill Tanger [riverdancer1943@gmail.com](mailto:riverdancer1943@gmail.com)

## Directions:

### From Charlottesville:

Follow I-64 West to I-81 South.  
Then follow I-81 South to Exit 168 (Arcadia)  
Turn Left on Arcadia Rd (Rt. 618)  
Turn Left on Solitude Rd. (Rt. 622)  
Camp will be on the Left.

### From Amherst:

Follow VA Route 130 to Natural Bridge,  
Then follow US 11 South to I-81  
Then follow I-81 South to Exit 168 (Arcadia)  
Turn Left on Arcadia Rd (Rt. 618)  
Turn Left on Solitude Rd. (Rt. 622)  
Camp will be on the Left.

### From Bedford:

Follow US 460 West to US 220  
Then follow US 220 North to I-81,  
Follow I-81 North to Exit 168 (Arcadia)  
Turn Right on Arcadia Rd (Rt. 618)  
Turn Left on Solitude Rd. (Rt. 622)  
Camp will be on the Left.

### From Roanoke:

Follow I-81 North to Exit 168 (Arcadia)  
Turn Right on Arcadia Rd (Rt. 618)  
Turn Left on Solitude Rd. (Rt. 622)  
Camp will be on the Left.

# Editor's Note

## Corrections

In the last newsletter, we mistakenly printed Bill Bamford's name as Bill Banford. He's Bill Bamford!

Also, please note Bill Chambers' email address is: wchambers72@verizon.net (one "C" not two! Thank you Kitty!).

## FFV Membership Chair - Seeking a Volunteer

**FFV is seeking a new membership chair. Duties include:**

1. Obtain updates membership list from chapter treasurers within a week or 2 of the newsletter going out. Best to e-mail treasurers about 3-4 weeks before newsletter going out for changes.
2. Update membership list in the eGoogle drive account
3. Update e-mail contact list in the FFV Business gmail account
4. Clean-up any e-mails that are bounced back, after the newsletter goes out.
5. Maintain a master copy of the membership list
6. Archive the master list in the google drive at the end of each year.

For any questions about the position, please contact Ginnie Peck at [ginniepeck@gmail.com](mailto:ginniepeck@gmail.com).

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 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.

FFV Membership Chair  
794 Farrar Bridge Lane  
Shipman, VA 22971