

FISHIN' POLE, PACK & PADDLE

FLOAT FISHERMEN OF VIRGINIA

SPRING 2014 ISSUE



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PRESIDENT'S PADDLE

Short & Sweet.

The Douthat Trip Included four rivers: The Bull Pasture Gorge, Back Creek Gorge, Richardson's Gorge and the Maury. Yours truly could not make it but the stories painted quite a picture. Big fun! Plenty of events coming up! Spring Fling & Mimosa Float on the Rockfish River... a blast! Memorial Day @ R-5 Music: Tim & Harry... Great tunes! The Rappahannock should be running well. We are still looking for officers & Kids Float volunteers.

Hope to see you on the river!

Tony



*Douthat Trip 2014
all photos courtesy of Patrick Sullivan
and Wendy Jones*

DIRECTIONS TO R5

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 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.

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.

ENVIRONMENT VIRGINIA 25

submitted by Bill Tanger

I attended Environment Virginia (EA) this year. Here are some of the river related issues of interest to the FFV. Please let me know if you have questions on any of these.

My Tuesday workshop/panel was on Land Conservation, where the major speaker was Karen Firehock, a member of the Friends of the Rivers (FORVA) board. She spoke on the Green Initiative program Goode Creek outside Richmond.

My first Wednesday workshop was “Bay Agreement and TMDL”. This workshop discussed the lawsuit against the Bay TMDL by 21 other states who do not want the TMDL to succeed. Their concern is that if the Bay TMDL does succeed, then their states will have to comply for their own waters. Some Virginia organizations have filed an amicus brief with in support of the TMDL.

Another Wednesday presentation was called “Envision the James”. The James River Association (JRA) explained the mission and program for “Envision...” and talked about recreational trails. These were defined as “...land trails, parks and scenic roadways”. In my comment I asked why blueways were not included in “Envision...”, whereupon JRA acknowledged the omission and apologized for it.

Some startling information came out in these presentations.

The Coastal Aquifer is in really big trouble, and is an issue swept under the rug for decades. Data shows that the aquifer in the pre-industrial era was 140’ above sea level, but today it is 100’ below sea level. This means that salt water intrusion is taking place and will continue to get worse until something is done.

While we know of the blue crab shortage, the cause has not been identified. The VMRC has discovered an interesting confluence of events that may provide a reason. Blue crabs crashed last year and the statistics show that red drum, which feed on young blue crabs, went from 31,000 in 2011, to 65,000 in 2012 to 2.5 million in 2013. It just could be that the red drum explosion caused the blue crab disappearance.

Meanwhile, oyster harvests have gone from 24,000 lbs in 2010, to 400,000 lbs in 2013. The new goal is 800,000 lbs in 2014, and it seems possible. Most of these increases in oysters are due to aqua farming, rather than natural growth.

In the final workshop on Thursday, a knowledgeable group of water professionals made a presentation on the water shortage in eastern Virginia. We forget how fortunate we are to have adequate water resources here in western Virginia, because the plummeting aquifer in the east is a major problem. I proposed the FORVA concept of the Water Loop in this presentation, which was met with great interest and discussion.

During the EV event I picked up much valuable information. I found that DCR’s Dam Division has portable siphon equipment that can drain water from behind dams. This is important to me and FORVA as we are in the process of demolishing the Pigg River Dam and lowering the water behind the dam will help us with the deconstruction.

I also spent a good half hour with the new Director of DCR, discussing various subjects like an Invasive Species bill in Congress, the Virginia Invasive Species Advisory Committee and specific invasive species issues.

I made a proposal to the new Director of DEQ as well, regarding erosion control efforts that would affect the Bay and other TMDLs.

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.

8TH ANNUAL KID FLOAT

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

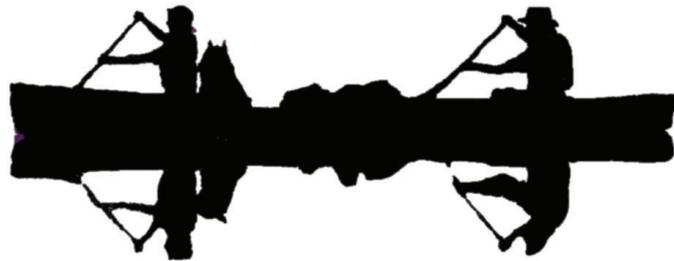
Saturday, June 7, 2014

Charlottesville Parks and Rec has teamed up with the George Dickel Chapter of the Float Fisherman of Virginia, to host its 8th Annual Kid Float on the James River. The trip is designed to give city youth who have never canoed, the opportunity to paddle Virginia's largest river. We will paddle from Warren to Hatton on the James river in Scottsville, VA

Volunteers needed! Contact Erica Goode, goodee@charlottesville.org or 434.970.3572 if you are interested in paddling a child down the river. Please let us know if you have a boat and equipment, or if you need any of those items, which we will have plenty of. Please also let us know if you have extra boats, life jackets or paddles.

TIME & DIRECTIONS:

- Arrive by 9:30am if you plan to park your vehicle @ Warren (the put in) and DO NOT have your own boat.
- Arrive by 8:45am if you plan to park your vehicle @ Hatton and you DO HAVE your own boat. This will give us time to get your boat unloaded and run your vehicle to the take out and get back in time for the kids.
- The last shuttle in the morning, from Hatton will leave at 9:30am to get back to Warren in time for the kids. Look for the Charlottesville Parks & Rec vehicles (15 passenger vans).
- There will be 4 Vehicles with canoe trailers and two shuttle vans to bring you, your boats & equipment back to the put in, after we paddle.
- Kids will arrive by 10-10:15am. We need to have everyone ready and waiting with boat, lifejacket, paddle, small cooler with drinks and snacks (you must bring your own cooler!!!) Snacks, drinks, ice and lunch are provided.
- When the kids arrive they will exit the bus and form a line to receive a lifejacket, paddle and will be paired with an adult paddle buddy for the day.





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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.

CURRENT RIVER PROJECTS

submitted by Bill Tanger

James River Cushaw Take-out Access: Moving forward on a better take-out below Balcony Falls. The application for an at-grade crossing was submitted on January 10 and a site visit was held on February 11. The application goes to CSX around May 1.

James River Howardsville Landing: DGIF has delisted this river access. We are working on resolving legal issues and improving it to the point that DGIF will re-list the access point. Just met with VDOT on the matter on 4/16/14. Tom Miller and Bill Tanger are working this one.

Roanoke River Niagara Dam Put-in: We are working to improve the put-in just below Niagara Dam. Met with the National Park Service on 4/15/14. The NPS has a committee looking at our proposal to build a better trail to the river.

Dam Removal/Recreation: Working on the Pigg River dam removal. We should hear the results of our big grant proposal by May 1. We are working with the USFWS, Franklin County and the town of Rocky Mount. Have already received two smaller grants for studies needed.

Roanoke River Erosion Problems: Rutrough Point: Met with VDOT on this, which denied any responsibility for the problem. Met with Roanoke County on the issue 4/14/14. The county is looking at solutions.

Price Park: A 45 acre park along Stroubles Creek in Montgomery County now has a temporary footbridge. We have improved the parking area. Also got the assessed value put under a forestry land use program, reducing the taxes to \$121 yearly. Now have an Eagle Scout to do a footbridge and another to do a kiosk. Randi Lemmon and Bill Tanger are on this task.

Menhaden management: The Atlantic Coast Fisheries Commission has voted to order a 20% reduction in the menhaden catch. We want to get the menhaden management into the hands of the VMRC instead of the legislature.

Water Quality Standards: Triennial Review: Patti Jackson is on the DEQ committee to review the standards and will be reporting back to us on this issue.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT MEMORIAL DAY!