



Fishing Pole Pack & Paddle

(Winter 2023)

FFV State Officers

President: Erica Goode

Ericagoode10@gmail.com

Vice Presidents:

- Tony Adams: antonadams@comcast.net
- Bill Duncan: wduncan311@yahoo.com
- Herb Coleman:
herb@clachanproperties.com:
- Bill Tanger: riverdancer1943@gmail.com

Secretary: Lauren Jacobs

lorenjacobs@yahoo.com

State Treasurer: Mitch Sims

mitchsims@yahoo.com

Chapter Treasurers, please e-mail deposit amounts to Mitch, each time you deposit in State Account.

Membership Chair: Ginnie Peck

**Chapter Treasurers, please e-mail updated membership info to Ginnie @:

ffvbusiness@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Gabby Safley

gabby.safley@gmail.com

Webmaster: Traci Martin

traci.martin1970@gmail.com

Conservation Chair: Bill Tanger

riverdancer1943@gmail.com

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

Randy Carter Chapter: Ed Galloway

ewgalloway@verizon.net

Roanoke Valley Chapter: Bill Tanger

riverdancer1943@gmail.com

Scotts Creek Chapter: Katherine Waller

kswaller@hotmail.com

President's Paddle

Happy fall all!

I hope everyone is enjoying this amazing fall weather and finding some water to paddle before the cold sets in.

I really enjoyed Labor Day weekend and special thanks to the Dierkes for allowing us to camp on their property again. We had a fantastic turnout for the weekend, and such a good time listening to the music and watching the kids play! It was so amazing to see all the FFV'ers utilizing the put-in at Allen's Creek, tour the property, and have an amazing day on the river. Thanks to Tanger and others who put in so much work to purchase the property!

I hope to see everyone at the Winter meeting, which will take place at the Slate River Property on December 2 at 11 am. We will be deciding on next year's trip schedule and hopefully discussing some new ideas and setting the plan for the coming year. Please reach out anytime with ideas, questions, etc.

See ya on the river,

Erica



Big Reminders!

Hi everyone this is a reminder that 2024 dues are due by January 31st, 2024!

Please, contact your local chapter treasurer to pay your dues.

The annual FFV State dues at \$20.00 per person or \$20.00 per family.

Some chapters have annual chapters dues in addition to FFV State due.

Happy floating!



Labor Day Meeting Minutes

September 4, 2023

Provided by: Loren Jacobs, Secretary

Call to Order: Erica Goode

- Erica called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM
- Thanks to Patrick Oliver for the excellent music!

Secretary report: (Approve Minutes): Loren Jacobs

- Ginnie motioned to approve minutes. Motioned seconded and approved.

Treasurers report: Mitch Simms

- \$200 in unknown fees from Godaddy- Follow up with Traci needed.
- Need to collect River Tax. \$5 a person \$10 a family.

Membership Report: Ginnie Peck

- Membership is still to be determined and the numbers are a rough estimate:
 - Roanoke approx.: 50
 - Dickels approx.: 25
 - SC approx.: 25
 - Randy Carter: Over 50

Newsletter Report: Gabby Safley

- Send pictures of trips, reports on trips, and river conservation news to be included in the newsletter

Webmaster Report: Traci Martin

- Requesting to look into Godaddy charges.

Conservation Chair Report: Bill Tanger

- Craigs Creek Battle- folder passed around. Property owners are trying to deny river passage. Could establish a terrible precedent for river access statewide. Filed amicus brief for free and open navigation and currently filing another with Botetourt on behalf of Float Fishermen.
- Allens Creek – Possible restoration of house. Decision needs to be made whether to restore the abandoned house currently on the property. Would it be possible to use the skills of several FFV members to restore house.

Conservation Chair Report: Bill Tanger

- Allens Creek Cont. –House used to have power, has well, has sewer but the condition is unknown. Deck and steps need to be torn down. Roof is not leaking. Could be used as bunkhouse or shelter from storms.

Balcony Falls Take Out:

- In the hands of Amhurst County and they are hesitant to take over. This project is connected to Allens Creek because it provides Amhurst County a blue way.

FFV Foundation Report: Bill Tanger

- Discussing the state and future of newly acquired Allens Creek property.
- There is currently an opening on the Foundation Board. Scott McEwen accepted the open position.

Old Business:

- Erica staying on for another year as president.
- Katherine- Kids float was a huge success! Collected \$1200 in cans.
- Thanks to Jackie Hall for private donations!
- Thanks to Jim Deirkes and his family for letting us camp on their property for the second year in a row.
- Thanks to James River State Park for the donation of parking vouchers.

New Business:

- Rethinking the current donation to American Rivers. Tanger proposes to move that donation to FORVA. Should we increase donations to these companies because they have not been raised? (Mitch) Tabled to winter meeting.
- **Trip schedule to be addressed at the winter meeting**

Adjourn:

- Bryon Jones motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded and AYEED!



Friends of Craigs Creek Update

*Courtesy of Bill Tanger
October 2, 2023*

Report from courtside on motion for a summary judgement:

Several of the Friends attended the court case hearing on September 27 in Craig County. The results were mixed at best. There were no big surprises as we were arguing the same justiciability issues as before. VMRC asked for a dismissal by the demurrer. The judge denied it. The court did dismiss the Lemon attorneys fee claim. I will try to distill the arguments and the decision, but I am no attorney, so factor that in

Arguments:

The Lemons argue that the state has taken away some of their rights to use the creek. This is because the state claims “ownership” of the creek bottom. When the public uses their section of Craigs Creek for wading, swimming, tubing, boating, the Lemons feel that takes away their rights to control that use.

They cite their efforts to remove creek users are stymied by the state which has issued opinions stating that the public can use the creek for navigation. Therefore, the state agencies like DWR, DCR, DEQ and VMRC will not demand the public stop using the creek.

The commonwealth argues that has not taken away any rights. It argues that if the Lemons find someone trespassing on the creek shoreline, they should file suit against the trespasser, not the state. The state does say that the public has the right to navigate the creek.

The judge stated that if the commonwealth allows the public to use the Lemon property that would be considered inviting public use and encouraging trespassing. He did not draw any distinction between navigation and trespassing on the Lemons creek bed.

Now my take:

It is my position that the state should consider not claiming “ownership” of the creek or creek bed. I believe the state should re-phrase its language to claim that has “jurisdiction” over the creek and navigation, not ownership. To me the owner is the property owner who pays taxes. There really cannot be two owners. The issue of navigation should be considered separately as it is determined by federal law, although enforced by the state.

Clearly some agency must have jurisdiction over the creek and creek bed. Issues such as building a dock in the creek, polluting the creek, withdrawing water from the creek, putting obstacles in the creek, and on and on, need some state entity with jurisdiction. So VMRC and the other state agencies should have jurisdiction over those matters. If there is trespass on the stream bank or nearby property of the Lemons that is a matter for the landowner filing a lawsuit for that trespass incident.

The judges seems perplexed by what I consider semantics. At one point he even stated, “I’m confused about this...”, referring to the “ownership” question.



Friends of Craigs Creek Update Cont.

Courtesy of Bill Tanger

October 2, 2023

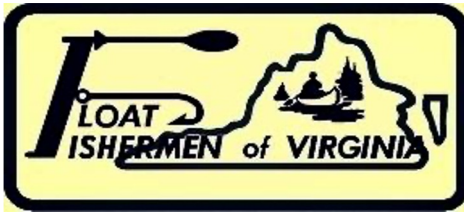
Meanwhile, the Float Fishermen on Virginia (FFV) has filed an amicus brief in our favor, like the one filed by Botetourt County. This is important to alert the judge to public concerns about navigation since the matter could set a statewide precedent. The cost for this legal work is \$2,400. We need donations to help defer the cost to FFV.

Please send whatever you can.

Feel free to ask questions and raise issues. The next hearing is on November 6 in the Craig County courthouse. Make a not on your calendar.

----- Bill Tanger, ad hoc facilitator,
and junkyard dog
540-266-0237
riverdancer1943@gmail.com

Craigs Ck hearing on motions 9-27-23



Allens Creek Cabin Update

October 7, 2023

Courtesy of Bill Tanger

On Saturday, October 7th, a hardcore group of the FFV worked over the cabin at Allens Creek.

We took over 3 tons of old furniture and stuff to the Amherst County Solid Waste site.

We also tore the deck and steps to the deck of the 1929 cabin. We plan to send that old and no-good lumber to the solid waster site in the coming weeks.

We cut back the vines on the stone chimneys and building, sprayed on the poison ivy and pulled more junk out for our next trip to the solid waste site.

We put up several signs stating the property is owned by the FFV, is available to boaters and provided a suggestion that they join the FFV.

Howard Kirkland is doing a report on the electrical condition of the cabin. He is an electrical engineer.

Howard Kirkland is doing a report on the electrical condition of the cabin. He is an electrical engineer.

The weather was perfect, we got a lot done and you can now have a much better view of the cabin. We have already gotten a phone call from boaters about using the site!

Be sure to thank the following FFV boaters: Scott Mcewen, Andy Mcewen, Herb Coleman, Howard Kirkland, Ben Carter, Danny Booker and Bill Tanger.

Anyone interested in helping out at our next work event, please let me know. It will likely be on a Saturday or possibly one of the holiday weekdays we have coming up.

----- Bill Tanger

Allens Creek update – workday event 10-7-2023



The James River in Richmond

Courtesy of Catherine and Cris Leonard

John Bryan, an advocate for the James River, has authored a guidebook to the James River Park in Richmond. The publication is a fundraiser, with proceeds from the book sales going to conservation, preservation and environmental causes or groups benefitting the James.

Whether you're a long time Richmonder or a first-time visitor, a fast-moving energizer or a slow-moving relaxer, a devotee of art and history or a lover of woods and waters, a wise-eyed 80-year-old or a wide-eyed 8-year-old – no matter what or who you are, this book is your guide to a cityload and calm-water swimming, lively walkways and secluded wood ways, provocative history and evocative art, granite-wall climbing and mountain-trail biking, wheel-friendly pathways and family-friendly festivals.

This book is a philanthropic project with all net proceeds going for good causes.

You can learn more at:

<https://www.jamesriverlovers.com>



A Float Family

Photos Courtesy of our members



Creek Hiking with Mary B., Erica G., and Gabby S., 2023, Courtesy of Mary Bias



Some Dickels lounging during labor day paddle 2023, Courtesy of Mary Bias



Dickle Kids Floating and Fishing, Labor Day, 2023, Courtesy of Erica Goode



2023 FFV Event Schedule

Winter Business Meeting
Location: Slate

Dec. 2nd @ 9am

Directions to Slate River Property

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 Arvon. 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.

FFV Membership Chair
794 Farrar Bridge Lane
Shipman, VA 22971