

# Fishin' Pole Pack'n Paddle Fall 2022

## FFV State Officers

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

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**State Treasurer: Mitch Sims**

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\*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 @:

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**Conservation Chair: Bill Tanger**

[riverdancer1943@gmail.com](mailto:riverdancer1943@gmail.com)

**Annual Dues:** Due January each year

- \$20 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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**Randy Carter Chapter: Ed Galloway**

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**Roanoke Valley Chapter: Bill Tanger**

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**Scotts Creek Chapter: Katherine Waller**

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For information on paying dues please see FFV Webpage:

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

## President's Paddle

Happy fall all!

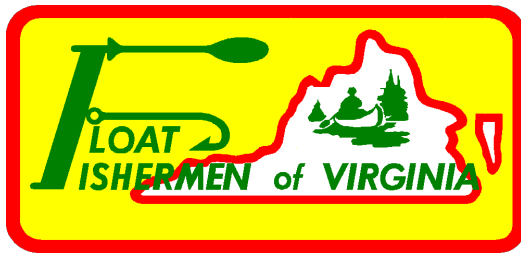
I hope everyone is enjoying this amazing fall weather and finding some water to paddle before the cold sets in. I wanted to send out a huge thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors that helped with the Kid Float. Even though we had a lower kid turnout due to the reschedule, we made a huge impact on those that came, and the parents were grateful for the experience. Thank you to Mary Lyman for the amazing pictures below. Next year will be bigger and better!

I really enjoyed Labor Day weekend and special thanks to the Dierkes for allowing us to camp on their property. It was a beautiful spot and great paddling.

I hope to see everyone at the Winter meeting, which will take place at the Slate River Properties on December 3 at 11am. 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



## Currents & Eddies Courtesy of Bill Tanger

**James River – Nelson County:** working on obtaining a permanent river access at Allen's Creek. This access is in jeopardy as of our last Labor Day float trip due to a property owner closing off one side of the creek. FFV Foundation members Rick Mattox, Bob Peck and Bill Tanger are working on a property owned by Weyerhaeuser to purchase or lease. Stay tuned for more updates soon.

**Blackwater River (Franklin County):** just finished a streambank restoration at Lynch Park in Rocky Mount. Lynch Park is a Blackwater River access site. ---- Bill Tanger, Ray Williams

**James River – Balcony Falls Take-out (Amherst County):** FORVA is working with an engineering firm in North Carolina to develop plans for a crossing of the CSX track at our Balcony Falls site. We just completed a survey and feasibility letter to CSX. --- Bill Tanger, FFV

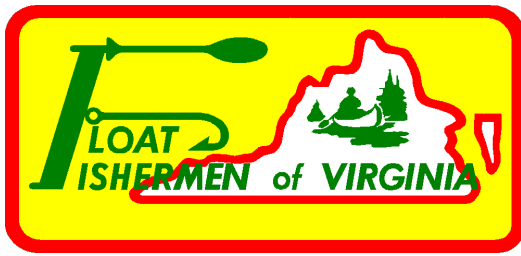
**Blackwater River (Franklin County):** Getting ready to improve a 6-acre access on the Blackwater River at Round Hill Road in Franklin County. ----- Bill Tanger, Creek Freaks

**New River - Price Park (Montgomery County):** The 50-acre park along Stroubles Creek in Montgomery County is very popular. Working on plans for a pedestrian bridge across Stroubles Creek. --- Randi Lemmon, Rick Roth and Bill Tanger

**Blackwater River (Franklin County):** New access on the Blackwater River at Rt 122 under development for a parking lot and an access ramp. Just did a site plan for the property. ----- Bill Tanger; FFV: Pat & Ray Williams; Creek Freaks of Franklin County.

**Statewide:** working on a proposal for dam recreational safety study and regulations to address the continued drownings at unsafe dams. Have draft legislation ready. If interested in helping out, let me know. We will need members to contact their state reps.





# Trip Pics: Kid's Float Courtesy of Erica Goode







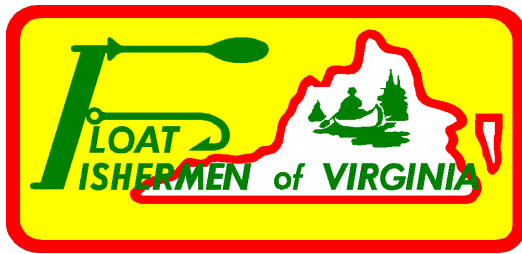












# James River Tire Cleanup Courtesy of Bill Tanger

A4 | TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2022



IMAGE COURTESY BOTETOURT COUNTY

Twin River Outfitters employee Mike Denten takes littered tires out of the James River and loads them on a canoe for proper disposal.

## Outfitter tired of tires dumped in James River

Twin River Outfitters of Buchanan seeks to find out who is littering

LUKE WEIR  
luke.weir@roanoke.com  
540-566-8917

8/23/22

Volunteers fished another dumpster-full of littered tires from the James River this summer, and a Botetourt County outfitter wants to know who keeps restocking the water with rubber.

For 12 years now, Twin River Outfitters of Buchanan has organized cleanup efforts down a 50-mile stretch of the James River, from Iron Gate to Arcadia, said business owner John Mays during a phone call Monday.

"We've been doing this business for 17 years, and when we first started the company, everybody said, 'you have a beautiful river, but what's up with them tires?'" Mays said. "So we started cleaning them up... Initially, gosh, there were stacks of 20 tires in one bend of the river."

Another 160 tires were pulled from the 50 miles of James River this summer by volunteers and Twin River Outfitters employees, plus more than 50 Boy Scouts from troops as far as New York, Mays said.

The 12-year James River cleanup tally is somewhere around 2,600 tires removed, he said. But more tires turn up every year, and they aren't spawning

naturally.

"The tires we find might have a tree grown out of them, so they've obviously been there for many years, and some of the tires look like they came off a car like a week ago," Mays said. "Unfortunately, it must mean somebody's dumping them upstream."

Tire density along the stretch of river has dropped substantially due to the cleanup efforts, he said. But after hunting along the same bends for so many years running, Mays said an upstream business or landowner might be avoiding waste disposal fees by chucking tires into the James.

"We just don't know where they're coming from ... it's sad," he said. "Somebody's actively dumping, it's not just tires coming down from an old flood ... we've hit the same areas for like 10 years in a row now."

Mays said he would like to know who could be responsible for the litter. He might have some choice words for them, on behalf of the whole county.

"We're happy to do our part to help keep the James River clean," Mays said. "It's beneficial for everybody."

Botetourt County is handling the proper disposal of the dumpster full of tire litter, according to a press release.

"It's a very lengthy, difficult process to get a tire out of the river," Mays said. "It'd be so much easier just to dispose of them properly."

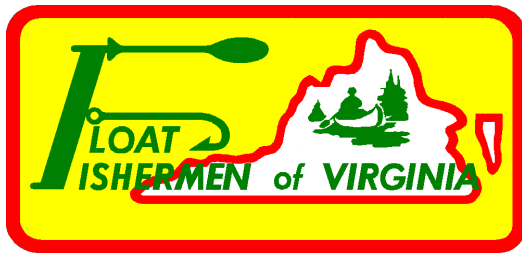
"This article is a good example of why the state codes on tire disposal should be changed.

We need to be able to drop off tires at our disposal centers without having to pay a fee. Imagine if we had to pay for dropping off other trash. Guess where much of it would go!

Anyone interested in taking on this effort? Let me know."

Bill Tanger, Conservation Chair





# Blackwater River Dam Removal Update Courtesy of Bill Tanger

Page 7

Coastal CaNEWS

Fall 2022

## Blackwater River Dam Removal: FORVA Dambusting Again!

*Bill Tanger, FORVA and Raymond Williams*

On April 25, 2022, Friends of the Rivers of Virginia (FORVA) demolished the Altice Mill Dam on the Blackwater River, near Rocky Mount, Virginia. The dam, 110 feet long and 6 feet high, was built as a grist mill in 1916 and ceased operations in 1935. It had been a barrier to boaters and fish, and a safety hazard requiring a portage.



Dam Break from Yard 4/16/2021

All material from the dam removal was used to restore the riverbank just below the dam's former location, which was extensively eroded over the years. This material included rock and concrete from the dam and sediment from upstream. Removing the dam only required one day of drilling, followed by two days of restoring the site and the riverbank.

The high waters from heavy rains in recent years led to segments of the dam on the left bank breaking loose and washing about 15 and 30 feet downstream, creating a deceptively inviting looking rapid containing rebar, jagged concrete and filler rock. The current could easily have pushed inexperienced paddlers into a large chunk of the dam just downstream, creating an entrapment hazard.

Fortunately, the lower water levels behind the dam created an easy portage beach on river right, the property owner posted a



Rapids 4/27/2022

large warning sign upstream, and local paddlers posted warnings and photos on Facebook pages, so no one tempted fate on river left.

In early 2022, a second segment of the dam broke loose and washed a short distance downstream, increasing the hazards of attempting to run the rapid.

The project was initiated by FORVA, who provided project management, landowner outreach and permitting, with the assistance of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), the Creek Freaks of Franklin County, and the property owner.

The dam had been a barrier to fish migration for over 100 years. The property owner has already observed fish moving upstream of the dam, including smallmouth bass.

The dam removal will increase recreational use, and kayakers have already floated through the old dam site, now a class one rapid. This dam removal on the Blackwater River will also contribute to FORVA's efforts to create a Franklin County Blueway, now starting up, which includes both the Pigg and Blackwater Rivers.



Drill and Broken Segments 4/25/2022

Although the property owners have always been friendly to paddlers and allowed us to use the edge of their yard for an easy portage, removing the portage improves the situation for the residents. For paddlers, the several hundred yards of rapids offer more enjoyable options than the flatwater paddle and portage. The owners and local boaters were thrilled with the beautiful small ledges and rapids that emerged as the dam backwaters lowered to natural river levels.

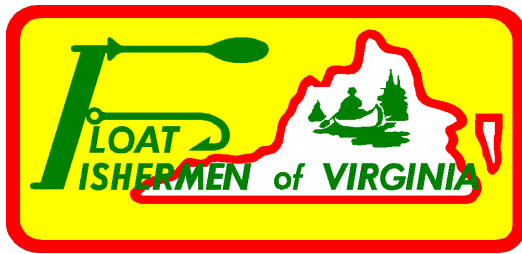
FORVA continues with dam-busting projects!  
Contributions accepted!

<https://forva.org/>

**FORVA**  
FRIENDS OF THE RIVERS  
OF VIRGINIA

Photos by Raymond Williams





# PFAS Update

## Courtesy of Bill Tanger

October 18, 2022

### A Growing Threat to Our Waters

In late August of 2022, the Roanoke Valley's Water Authority turned off the water from its Spring Hollow Reservoir. An environmental sleuth had discovered PFAS ("forever" chemicals) in the reservoir.

Virginia had just run a test on 45 water supply reservoirs in the state and found that Roanoke's Spring Hollow had more PFAS than any other. A reporter got the word out in the Roanoke Times.

Within five hours the Water Authority had turned off the water and notified 70,000 customers not to drink the water.

Spring Hollow gets its water from the Roanoke River. Testing has shown the water in the Roanoke River has PFAS way beyond the safe limit.

The Water Authority has set aside \$13 million to try to clean up the reservoir water. No one is sure what it will cost.

Now the polluted water continues downstream to Smith Mountain Lake and places beyond.

PFAS have become one of the worst pollutants since dioxin or PCBs. In mid-October word went out that PFAS have now been found in deer meat. Hunters are warned not to eat the meat.

Studies are underway to determine the impact on fish and other critters.

The search is on to find the source of the PFAs in the Roanoke River. It is likely from an industrial company upstream in Montgomery County.

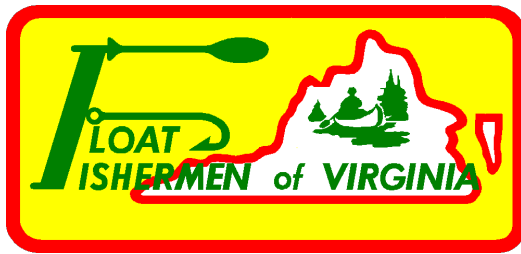
An excellent 2019 movie called "Dark Waters" documents the discovery of PFAS in West Virginia, which resulted in the bankruptcy of DuPont Chemical. That company is no more.

Let this be a warning to follow the PFAS issue as it develops. And to watch what you drink or eat. Things are getting dicey out there.

----- Bill Tanger, FORVA & FFV

PFAS intro – 10-15-22





# Meeting Minutes

## Courtesy of Rick Mattox

*FLOAT FISHERMEN OF VIRGINIA*  
*MEETING*  
*September 4, 2022*  
*Minutes*

- Call to order: Erica Goode  
Erica called the meeting to order at 9:03
- Secretary Report (Approve minutes): Loren Jacobs  
Rick Mattox motioned to approve the minutes. Motion seconded and approved.
- Treasurer's Report: Mitch Sims  
The Treasurer's Report showed a beginning balance of \$12,570 (as of Memorial weekend) and an ending balance of \$12,648.  
Mitch is looking into a few Go Daddy expenses.  
Unknown dues paid worth \$300 (possibly Scotts Creek).  
Ginny motioned to accept treasures report, report was seconded and confirmed.
- Membership Report: Ginnie Peck  
139 paid members this year with more paid this weekend.  
Members need to confirm contact information for newsletter.  
Need to make sure snail mail newsletters are going out and being received.  
Membership report was accepted.
- Newsletter Report: Jaime Baird  
Jaime is finishing up and Gabby is taking over. Thank you, Jaime, for all of your hard work and thanks to Gabby for stepping up.
- Webmaster Report: Traci Martin  
If you notice anything on the website that needs to be updated, you have pictures to share, or stories send them to Traci.
- Conservation Chair Report: Bill Tanger  
Newsletters contain current projects,

There are several access projects in the works.

We are looking for Tye River access properties for sale, looking into purchasing one of the properties to control access.

Tye into the James needs a better take out at the Rucker's Run area, need to find someone to sell an acre or two for river access. Looking for a volunteer to search for land for sale along the river in this area.



Friends of the Rivers of Virginia just took out a dam in Franklin County. Concept proposal to VA legislators urging them to adopt a state law or regulation plan to address private dam safety. Recently there have been several deaths involving private dams. Potential legislation could make owners liable for deaths that occur relating to their dam. There are two main topics to be addressed. The first is a safety line across the dam in case an emergency exit is needed. This is a safety feature that is required on public dams, but not private. Second issue is to warn of the dangers of the dam via regulated signage.

Mr. Tanger proposes that FFV gets behind this legislation.

Paper mailings to legislators will require funding to the 140 VA state reps and senators.

Get the word out to FFV members to be thinking about action in the very near future.

Bill motions for FFV to support dam legislation. Motion was seconded and approved.

PFAS-water testing. This was a known problem that had been covered up for a year. PFAS are still coming down the Roanoke River.

- FFV Foundation Report: Bill Tanger

Tanger would like the Foundation to be involved in dam safety legislation.

We are still looking for potential Randy Carter Award candidates.

We are looking to purchase more access point properties.

- Old Business:  
Erica thanks everyone for the support with the kids float, 7 kids on the river after being rescheduled.

Ginnie motions that FFV covers the tab for the lunches for the re-scheduled Kids Float.

Motion seconded and approved

- New Business:  
Rick Mattox: A big thank you to Jim Dierkes for allowing us to use this property.

Thank you to James River State Park for providing us with 10 complimentary parking passes for the weekend.



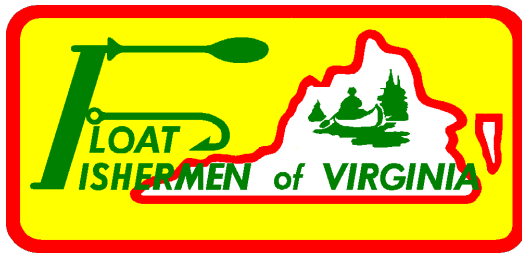
Save your aluminum! \$300 in cans has been cashed in to Richmond Aluminum who is generously giving us \$1 per pound instead of \$.50 per pound

Winter meeting December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Slate where we will determine next year's trip schedule.

We would like to try to add a dedicated river clean up to the schedule.

Tanger presented an idea to ask lawmakers to eliminate the tire disposal fee so that people don't have to pay so much to get rid of tires and therefor will not dump them in rivers.

- Ginnie motions to adjourn. Motion seconded and Agreed.



## In Memoriam Francis Jack Weeks



### Francis Jack Weeks

Francis Jack Weeks, age 76, of Boston, Virginia, passed away at his home on October 12, 2022. Jack was born on September 22, 1946, in The Plains, Virginia, to Anderson R. Weeks and Paige Elizabeth Anderson Weeks. He proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps for 23 years and was a Vietnam Veteran.

Jack was a member of the American Legion Post 157, Madison, Virginia, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 752, Culpeper, Virginia, and the Randy Carter Chapter of the Float Fishermen of Virginia, Remington, Virginia.



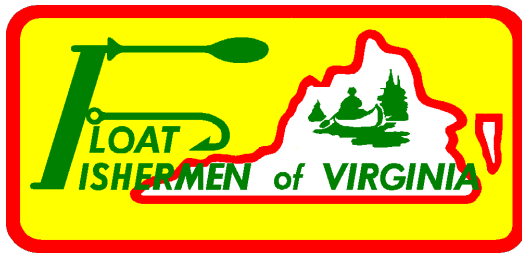
Surviving Jack is his wife of 43 years, Greta Yvonne Teets Weeks of Boston, Virginia; his two sons, Clinton Weeks (Christa) of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and Anderson "Andy" Weeks (Carla) of Culpeper, Virginia; and his daughter, Kristie Ward (Brandon) of Purcellville, Virginia. He is also survived by two granddaughters, Arya Ward and Ella Weeks; one step-granddaughter, Kathleen Weeks; two brothers, William Weeks and Delbert Weeks; and one sister, Dianna Gregg.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by two brothers, Robert Weeks and Allen Weeks, and one sister, Elizabeth Leckey.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at 11 a.m. in the chapel of Clore-English Funeral Home, 11190 James Monroe Hwy., Culpeper, Virginia, with Pastor Jeff Light officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to service time and are invited to the reception following the funeral service.

Interment will be held Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. in the Quantico National Cemetery, 18424 Joplin Road, Triangle, Virginia, with military honors provided by the United States Marine Corps Honor Guard.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Jack's memory to Novum Baptist Church, 1629 Novum Church Road, Reva, VA 22735.



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

## 2022 Trip and Event Schedule

### **Business Meeting**

Saturday, December 3rd, 2022

Location: Slate River Property

GPS Address: 10330 Bridge Port Road Arvon, VA 23004

11 am



# 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 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  
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Shipman, VA 22971