



Fishin' Pole Pack'n Paddle

Fall 2020

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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

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

Greeting Fellow Paddlers,

I hope everyone had a great summer. Here comes the colder weather, although yesterday was 85 degrees and felt like summer again. I've been working on the new/old Cardinal camper. I have an ultralight for sale that is tornado proof. See me for an FFV discount and details. Must be good it lasted 42 years! Despite all that is going in this world we had the beautiful wedding of Trey and Emily Mattox in August. The Slate River property was a beautiful venue and congratulations to both of them. Labor Day Weekend was nice. An FFV award was given to Gaige Hall for rescuing his brother from the river. I was also rewarded with a great picture of the rescue made by the kids. We also had had a wonderful celebration of Johnny O' and Pete. The band, Sierra, rocked the Slate and we will definitely have them come again. I couldn't attend the Dickel Bash, but they did. Great weather and great time. They did the second bridge down. Wow, I really missed it! Don't forget the Winter Meeting on 12/5/20 at 11 a.m. at the Slate River. Business and floating and another river award that is well deserved. Camping will also be available. We will also have a quick cold weather seminar. Please be safe and stay warm and we will get through 2020 soon. I look forward seeing everyone. Call me anytime if you need anything.

Paddle on!

Rock



Currents & Eddies

Courtesy of Bill Tanger

October 2, 2020

James River – Balcony Falls Take-out (Amherst County): FORVA has the VDOT permit for the entrance off Rt 501. Our next event is a meeting with the US Forest Service on Oct 14. That meeting is to learn our next steps in obtaining a Forest Service permit. Stay tuned. --- Bill Tanger, Tom Miller & Howard Kirkland

Roanoke River – Rutrough Point Access (Roanoke County): Repaired rock wall damages done by Hurricane Michael. Using rocks twice as big, the wall is now twice as strong! We planted 7 trees along the riverbank and put in a fence to protect them. Still working on planting more “live stakes”. --- Bill Tanger

Pigg River Dam Removal (Franklin County): The Pigg River runs free, except for one huge logjam! We recently removed two 250 ton logjams that caused massive erosion. --- Bill Tanger FFV: Mo Byrd, Duck Stanley, Ray Williams & Pat Williams

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

Blackwater River: FORVA just bought 4 acres for an access on the Blackwater River in Franklin County. 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. Working on 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. Stay tuned.

Tinker Creek Restoration: (Roanoke City): Major restoration project on Tinker Creek in Roanoke coming up after 50,000 fish killed in 2016 due to chemical spill. Restoration includes plan to remove three dams. Waiting on the US Fish & Wildlife to award funds. ----- 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 plus a possible camping spot.--- 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. Doing early survey work starting in December. We have the funds already to go.



Courtesy of Bill Tanger

October 7, 2020

AW American Whitewater - Sep/Oct 2020

I have pulled an excerpt from the latest AW magazine, which features the Safety report that is done each year. We might consider having an FFV Safety Chair. ----- Bill Tanger

“Life Vests Not Worn:

Life vests are essential for safe river paddling and swimming. People who fail to wear PFDs on the river put themselves at risk. We have reports of 11 accidents that could have been prevented if the victim had been wearing a PFD, including 6 rec-kayakers, 4 rafters and an I K paddler.

Almost all of the deaths occurred in easy whitewater with only one in Class III, at Balcony Falls on the James River in Virginia. The stories are distressingly similar: a paddler flips unexpectedly after hitting a rock, turbulence, or nothing in particular and disappears underwater. The body turns up hours, and sometimes days, later.

Three of these deaths occurred on Washington’s Spokane River within a few days of each other. This section has fast current and small waves, but no real obstacles. The water is very cold. In one instance a man swam out to help two kids who had capsized a kayak. They were wearing life vests, and survived. The man was not so equipped, and drowned. Two others drowned on Oklahoma’s Illinois River, a popular float trip with a few easy rapids that was running high at 6,000 cfs.”

(from AW magazine Sep/Oct 2020)

FFV newsletter Oct 2020



REB Stewart FFV Stories! The Founding of FFV

The Founding of FFV by REB Stewart III

Most organizations are founded to fill a need. I needed a shuttle – enough people to handle put-in and take-out duties and everything in between.

The first safety rule of American Whitewater is “NEVER PADDLE ALONE”. In addition to safety, it is great to have some good friends along on your paddling adventures.

My first whitewater was in 1948 in a wood and canvas canoe. I fell in love with this sport which took me into scenic places with lots of fish. Years later I joined the Coastal Canoeists Organization. What a wonderful club! They taught me a lot about serious whitewater paddling and exploring Central Atlantic rivers. However, I had a problem with the Coastals. I was an avid fly fisherman and the never slowed down long enough for me to fish. They raced from rapid to rapid so I found a second need for an organization – shuttlers and paddlers who loved to fish. The FFV concept began to come together. Virginia was ready for a canoeing and fishing club.

I made a list of all of my disreputable fishing, hunting and backpacking/wilderness camping buddies. I began calling them for a couple of weeks seeking interest in what I called the Float Fisherman of Virginia. (As far as I know, it was and still is the only such organization in the world).

In January of 1971 seven friends showed up at my home: The historic Harrt House at 320 Court Street in Old Town Portsmouth, VA. Only four of the eight founders continued to play a role in the early days. Three of the other four purchased coastal waterfowl properties on the Eastern Shore. The fourth friend went under cover in the State Police. I consolidated my hard core four of us who became the heart and soul of FFV.



REB Stewart FFV Stories! The Founding of FFV

The Founding of FFV by REB Stewart III

Pete Pine, an Englishman who was a spitfire ace in the Royal Airforce in WWII. He was shot down and spent the rest of the war in Stalag Luft 3. Pete was one of the characters portrayed in the classic war movie "The Great Escape". More about him in the future articles.

Jack Albert was from Bedford. He was a great athlete and scholar who got a scholarship at W&L. He left early to serve his country and became an MP in the Air Force. Upon discharge, he accepted a job as a Virginia State Trooper. After a distinguished career, he flunked his eye exam and wound up as a legal investigator for the famous personal injury firm Banger, Bangel and Bangel. More on this legend later.

Joseph Lee Wiseman was a Southern Baptist Preacher. He was the most kind, mild mannered and ethical man I ever knew. That is why I nicknamed him "Wildcat" early on. After seminary, Joe discovered that he could make a better living as an accountant than preaching. He was a good vocalist and played a classic D-18 Martin Guitar. He could sing and yodel all of the classic songs of the iconic Jimmie Rodgers, the father of country music. More on Wildcat later.

Jack was our first VP. Wildcat was our secretary/treasurer and they elected me President. Everyday at lunch my business partner and I planned floats and strategies to grow FFV. All of a sudden it boomed. We had our shuttle and more.



Herb Coleman, Jr. Scholarship Award

Rick Mattox

We are very pleased to announce that the FFV Foundation has awarded its very first Herb Coleman, Jr. Scholarship Award. The recipient is Silas Pearson. The FFV Foundation board agreed to award Silas a \$2,000 scholarship. Silas is the great grandson of Norman and Mary Pearson. For those of you unaware, the Pearson's are the owners of R5, the property on the Kelly's Ford section of the Rappahannock River where the Randy Carter Chapter and FFV have spent many wonderful weekends. The Pearson family have been long standing members of FFV.

Thanks to Herb Coleman for establishing this scholarship in memory of his dad, an early member of FFV and an outstanding outdoorsman and supporter of FFV.

Below are excerpts from the application sent by Silas. I think all will agree that we were very fortunate to find such an outstanding recipient of the first Herb Coleman, Jr. Scholarship Award.

To Whom It May Concern,
My name is Silas Pearson, and this is my personal letter concerning my eligibility for the Herb Coleman Scholarship opportunity with the Float Fishermen of Virginia. I am eighteen years old, currently finishing my senior year of high school in Stephens City, Virginia. I am home schooled, but as you'll see from my transcript, I have taken most of my high school classes through Lord Fairfax Community College. I will be attending James Madison University in the fall, and I will be a full-time student for four years, taking classes for my major: Graphic Design. I am already accepted to JMU and the School of Art, Design, and Art History where I will start my professional art training. I look forward to learning more about all types of art, but my current plan is to pursue a career in graphic design after college.



Herb Coleman, Jr. Scholarship Award

Rick Mattox

I have been familiar with the FFV for as long as I can remember. Some of my first, and most fond memories come from my great-grandfather's beloved plot of land down in Remington. Yes, the Rappahannock River Rat Rehabilitation Retreat, "R5," is my slice of southern country living.

The land was acquired many years ago by my great-grandfather, Norman Pearson, Sr. and the Float Fishermen erected a shelter on the property in honor of him and my great-grandma Mary in 1990. I never knew my great-grandfather personally, as he passed in 1998 (4 years before I was born), but the many stories told about him around the campfire by FFV members like Pete Van Deman and Jack Weeks make me feel as though I do. My time with my great-grandmother Maw was also too short, but I have fond memories with her at R5, thanks to the FFV.

Now, the property belongs to my grandfather Norman Pearson Jr. but I call him "Granddaddy Frank" - long story! None of us lives very close to R5, but that doesn't keep us away. My whole life I have been making trips "down to the farm" for family fellowship and fun in the sun. All this thanks to the good folks who take care of the land and pay R5 regular visits to mow, clear downed trees, and just make sure that everything is in good order. We are so very grateful for the Float Fishermen and all they do. You see, this land is where I learned to catch fish, eat "mud-bugs," build a fire, and get sunburnt.

We are always excited for the opportunity to see familiar FFV faces, shake hands and eat mudbugs at the annual Crawdad Festival - Cajun Weekend. Though it's been almost two years since we've had the pleasure of gathering for a good boil, I can still taste spicy corn and crawdad meat. The truth is, the Float Fishermen are a staple for the Pearson family. For our Virginia family scattered throughout Charlottesville, Stephens City, and Harrisonburg, R5 in Remington is our rally point.



**Herb Coleman, Jr.
Scholarship Award**
Rick Mattox

It always has been, and I pray it always will be. With wonderful conservation groups like the Float Fishermen of Virginia, beautiful places like R5 are in good hands.

Their whole lives was in an effort to send me and my three siblings to a university with in-state tuition Thank you for your consideration of my application for the Herb Coleman Scholarship Application. I'm sure you will have many qualified candidates, and I wish you all the best as you make your decision.

Sincerely,

Silas Pearson



Labor Day Minutes

Loren Jacobs

Call to Order

Thanks to Ginnie Peck for lining up the band Sierra to play music Saturday night. Everyone seemed to enjoy their set.

Secretary report

The minutes from the previous meeting were published in a previous newsletter.

Motion to accept-Rick Mattox, Second-Bryon Jones, Vote-confirmed

Treasurers report-Bryon Jones

Bryon reported that income has exceeded expenses year to date.

The major expenditures were Insurance, porta potties and Go-daddy

Withdraws-1213.42

Deposits- 2180.00

Balance-\$11,497. 30

The Steve Keller chapter has donated the \$63.86 balance in the chapter account to FFV.

Membership Report-Scott

124 members, down from last year

Newsletter Report-

Jaime Baird has graciously volunteered to serve a Newsletter Chair. Her email address is: Jaimenbaird@gmail.com

Thanks Jaime!!!

Much appreciation to Vera Houghton for serving as Newsletter Chair over the past couple of years



Labor Day Minutes

Loren Jacobs

Webmaster Report

No report

Conservation Chair Report

Bill Tanger was unable to attend the meeting but did draft a letter voicing FFV's support for establishing a Blue Way on the Blackwater River. The letter was signed by FFV president Tyler (Rock) Willoughby.

The State has a project to increase put ins and take outs along the middle James.

Powhatan State park has nice boat landings and family camping.

FFV Foundation was established to improve river access.

FFV Foundation Report

The Foundation awarded the first Herb Colman Scholarship to Silas Pearson.

Silas is the great grandson of Norman and Mary Pearson, the owners of the R5 property, who decades ago allowed the Randy Carter Chapter and FFV to take over their property on the Rappahannock River for many Labor Day or Memorial Day meetings.

Trip schedule to be addressed at the winter meeting

The annual business meeting will be at 11am December 5th at the Slate River Property

Old Business

No report



Labor Day Minutes

Loren Jacobs

New Business

\$270 in river tax collected

Patty O'Sullivan spoke on the reciprocity agreement with the Tye river property owners having access to the slate river property and working with the Tye property owners on an agreement that goes both ways.

Big Thanks to the Slate River property owners for allowing the FFV to hold the annual Labor Day meeting at the Slate Property. There was a good showing and all seemed to enjoy the weekend.

Adjourn

Tyler motioned to adjourn

Erika seconded motion

Vote confirmed

Miscellaneous

Rock presented Gauge Hall with an award for a rescue on the James River near the New Canton take out.

Gauge gave Rock a hand drawn picture of the event .



Fishin' Pole Pack'n Paddle

2020 Revised Trip Schedule

2020 Trip and Event Schedule:

Annual Business Meeting (11:00 a.m.)– 12/5 at the Slate River property

Rock Willoughby is the contact for this event. Please reach out to him if you have any questions.

Email: willoughbys3@Hotmail.com

Phone: 804-244-6853

Below is the link to the Trip Sites Event Page

<http://floatfishermen.org/page.html>

The next page has the site address and directions for the winter meeting still scheduled for this year.



Fishin' Pole Pack'n Paddle

Current Trip Location and Directions

SLATE RIVER PROPERTY - Address for GPS

10330 Bridgeport Road
Arvon, VA 23004

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

Hello fellow Float Fishermen-and-women! Vera asked me to write a brief introduction for you all as I'll be serving as your new Fishin' Pole Pack'n Paddle newsletter editor. I met many of you at the Slate River Labor Day event, and am very much looking forward to meeting more of you.

I live and work in Richmond. Currently, I run a print shop downtown with fellow FFV paddler Seth Partin (the one who told me about this amazing group of people in the first place!) Prior to moving to Richmond six years ago, I lived in the Hudson Valley in upstate New York for ten years, where I worked at CCS Bard, a contemporary art museum and graduate program in curatorial studies. While there, I supervised our publishing arm and worked as managing editor for more than 20 art catalogues and scholarly publications. I loved doing it, and when I heard you needed an editor, I was more than happy to volunteer. This is going to be fun!

My first time in a kayak was on the Licking River in Ohio with my uncles. I was 13. We still organize an extended family post-Christmas snow paddle on the Licking nearly every year. I haven't taken a swim on that one yet, but Rick (and others) did see me swim Labor Day! Thank you Rick for the assistance draining and getting back on the water in no time! The point is, I'm no expert, but I love being on the water and am beyond thrilled to be part of a group of people who enjoy it as much as I do. Thank you for having me!

Please feel free to get in touch with me any time, whether with ideas or pictures for the newsletter, or just to get to know each other. My email address is jaimenbaird@gmail.com. See all ya'll paddlers soon!

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.

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