

Fishin' Pole Pack'n Paddle

Winter 2022

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- Bill Tanger: riverdancer1943@gmail.com

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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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Webmaster: Traci Martin

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Conservation Chair: Bill Tanger

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

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

For information on paying dues please see FFV Webpage:

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

President's Paddle

Hey FFV,

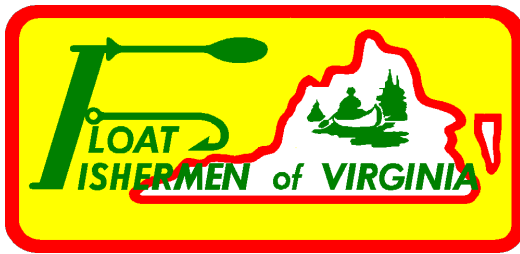
Happy spring! For those of us that are not cold-water paddlers, it's time to break out the paddles and hit the water. I'm sure the Douthat trip was epic and by the time this comes out, hopefully, it was a rockin' weekend on the Rockfish for Dickel Spring Fling.

Memorial Day will be at the Slate River Property and is sure to be a great time with friends, live music, and good paddling.

We are putting the final touches on Kid Float planning. Thanks to those that have reached out to volunteer and those that have supported in other ways. We are looking great on volunteers, boats, and gear. Please reach out to me if you would like to help. We will more than likely have more volunteers than kids, but with this being the first year back in a while, I want to be sure it is the safest and most enjoyable float for the kids. We will be sending out details about shuttle logistics, etc. as we get closer to the event. Special thanks to the Kid Float planning team that has been such a huge help with everything and Katherine Waller for heading and organizing the aluminum collection through CMA.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Memorial Day float and don't forget to bring a new friend! Please reach out anytime with ideas, questions, etc.

See ya on the river,
Erica



Currents & Eddies Courtesy of Bill Tanger

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 had to do survey work as there are no topo maps for the area! --- Bill Tanger

Roanoke River Niagara Dam Relicensing (Roanoke County): Working on recreational access issues along the river. ----- Bill Tanger

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

Blackwater River (Franklin County): FORVA working to improve a river access at Round Hill in Franklin County. We bought 6 acres at the access site. ----- Bill Tanger

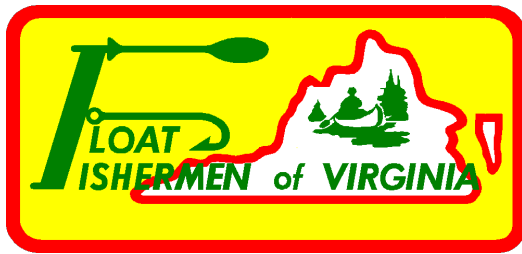
Roanoke River – Blueway (Roanoke County): FORVA is co-chair of the Roanoke River Blueway Committee. Just finished an access improvement at the Salem Wayside location. --- Bill Tanger & Blueway Committee

Blackwater River (Franklin County): Developing improvements at the new Rt 122 crossing of the Blackwater River to provide better river access. We own an acre! ----- Bill Tanger; FFV: Pat & Ray Williams; Creek Freaks of Franklin County.

McClure River (Dickenson County): Working on removing a dam on the McClure River at Clinchco. Found some funding and meeting with the town February 17, 2022.

Roanoke River – Rutrough Point Access (Roanoke County): Working on a new environmental assessment for APCo to finish the project. --- Bill Tanger

Blackwater River (Franklin County): Just removed the Altice Mill Dam and eliminated a mandatory portage. See the other article on this.



River Access Fees Update Great News! Courtesy of Bill Tanger

River friends, boaters, conservationists, fisherfolk, etc:

We have won the battle to repeal the noxious river access fees!

Thanks to all who helped, especially those who contacted their legislators!

As you know, in 2021, FORVA got the fees put on hold for a year.

On January 18, 2022, my senator John Edwards (D) brought our repeal bill before the Ag & Nat Resource committee. It was supported by a vote of 15 to 0.

Then it went to the full senate and was supported by a vote of 39 to 0.

My state delegate, Terry Austin (R), sponsored the repeal bill in the house of delegates. On January 26, the bill was supported by the House Subcommittee on Ag and Nat Resources by a vote of 20 to 1. (The one vote was Matt Fariss (R) of Lynchburg.)

Then it went to the full House and was supported by a vote of 92-7. (1 Demo/6 Repubs)

The governor signed the repeal bill on April 11. Success! No more fees.

This could not have been done without the huge support of FORVA, the Float Fishermen and many others who took the time to reach out to their legislators.

I encourage you all to reach out again to thank your legislators for their support... and in case they did not support, to so note for the next election.

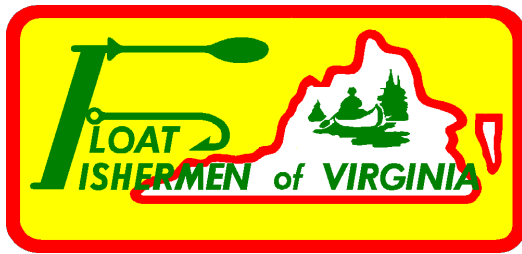
Bill Tanger, Conservation Chair

riverdancer1943@gmail.com

Cell: 540-266-0237



DWR access fees repeal – 4-15-22



Blackwater River Update

Courtesy of Bill Tanger

May 11, 2022

Blackwater River Dam Removal: FORVA dambusting again!

On April 25, 2022, FORVA demolished the Altice Mill Dam on the Blackwater River. 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.

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.

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.

A trip on the Blackwater is planned. FORVA continues with dambusting projects! Contributions accepted!

Bill Tanger, FORVA and FFV

Altice Mill Dam – FFV report 5-11-22



Altice Mill Rapid – former dam site



Altice Mill Dam before removal – dangerous breach on river left

Altice Mill report photos 1-2

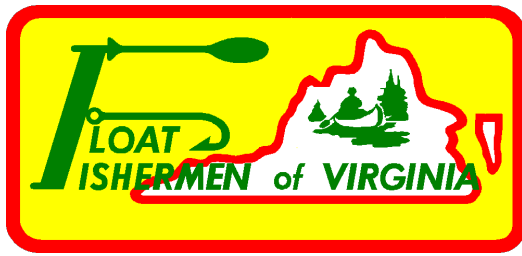


Blackwater River looking downstream from old dam site



Blackwater River looking downstream from above dam – 5-20-22

Altice Mill report photos 3-4



Back Creek/Douthat Trip Courtesy of Rick Mattox

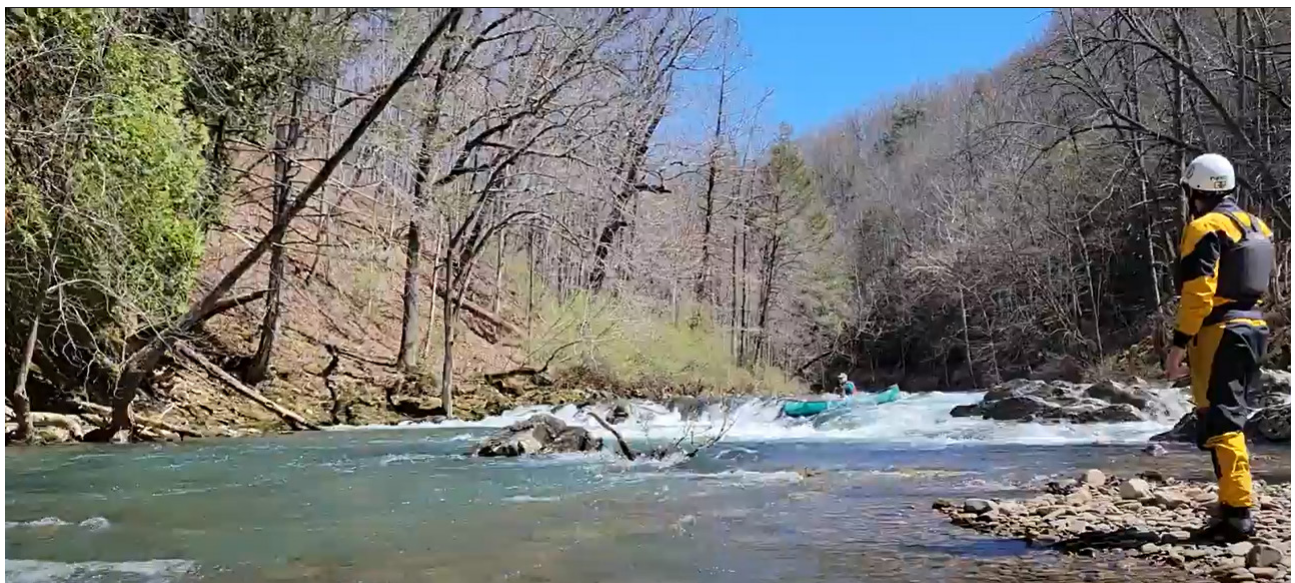
April 1 to 3 was our annual trip to Douthat State Park for the primary purpose of paddling Back Creek that Saturday. Back Creek is somewhat unique in that both sides of the section we paddle is owned by the Boiling Springs Rod and Gun Club requiring written permission from the club. Despite any opinions regarding riparian ownership of a river, the club has been very generous for the past 40+ years in granting FFV permission.

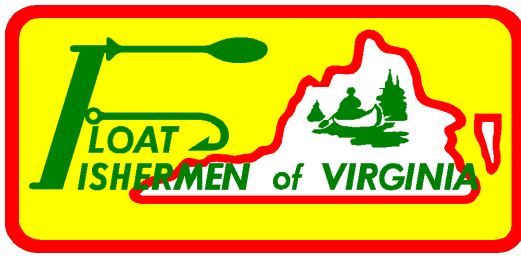
Rock Willoughby and I took advantage of a bonus opportunity to paddle the Bullpasture Gorge on the way to Douthat that Friday. The cold rain and snow (and sleet) did not deter the excitement and opportunity to paddle that section of river. That section is four miles of mostly class 1 to 2 rock garden/ledge type rapids. It then narrows through the gorge and a couple of class 2 to 3 ledge type rapids. Fortunately for us, there was no carnage along the way. The Bull was running just below 200 CFS, which is probably close to a minimum flow for paddling.

Our group consisting of Bomar, Rock, Bill Powell, Tony and Taylor Adams, Vera Houghton and myself converged on the Douthat Main Lodge. John and Amena Burton were also there staying in a separate cabin. The Douthat Lodge is a 6-bedroom log lodge on top of the park overlooking the lake in the distance. Ironically, while there was water in the rivers, there was no water in the lodge. The well pump broke shortly after our arrival. As you might imagine, 7 people staying in the lodge without water, showers, working toilets added an unanticipated twist to our adventure. Hats off to park ranger Derek who bent over backwards to help us get through the weekend bringing 2 large coolers of water to wash dishes and flush toilets and 2 cases of drinking water. He was also around until 10 or 11 each night working with the electrician trying to fix the problem. For the benefit of all staying in the lodge, we were able to take showers at the nearby camp ground. We finally got water about 11:00 Saturday night.

On Saturday, Vera, Bomar, Tony, Taylor, John, Rock and myself paddled Back Creek. It was running about 250 CFS. Back Creek is a beautiful stretch of river with rock cliffs on both sides. It is about 6 miles of mostly class 1 to 2 rock garden type rapids with a couple of class 2 to 3 ledges along the way. There was no carnage with the possible exception of Vera having a run-in with a rock and the rock prevailing. She did an efficient self-rescue and all was good.

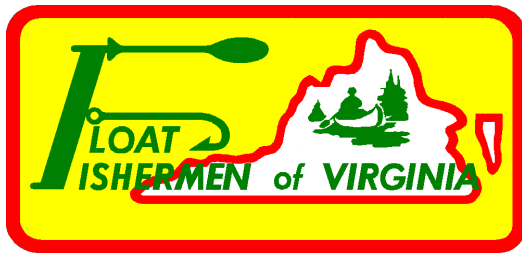
Rock, John and I have been doing this trip almost annually for over 40 years now. It is always one of the paddling highlights of the year.





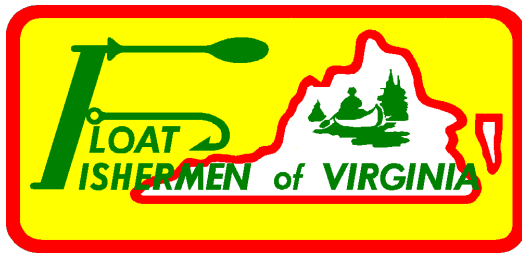
Trip Pics: Back Creek/Douthat Trip Courtesy of Taylor Adams





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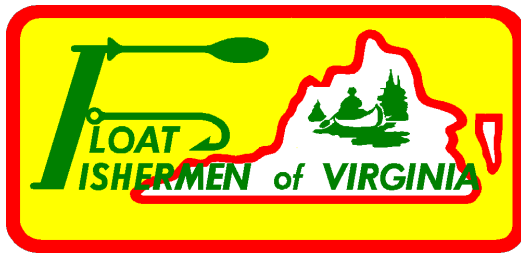
Canoe/Kayak Fishing Tips Courtesy of Bryon Jones



River Fishing is Fun

1. 16 and over must have a fishing license.
2. Prepare your canoe - paddles, floatation etc.
3. Beginners should always fish tandem with a guide - makes catching easier and safer.
4. Check gear for the fish you are after. Don't over think or pack. Fishing Gear doesn't have to be expensive - I have used a \$19.95 Shakespeare for years. Select good bait and artificial lures. Needle nose pliers, nail clippers, and first aid kit always a must.
5. If fishing solo - learn how to hold fishing rod in one hand and paddle in the other. Trees often catch your bait.
6. Pay attention to River and conditions on the River. Rapids and rocks often cause mishaps while canoeing.
7. Learn where fish like to hide.
8. Be quiet while fishing - fish have ears - LOL.
9. Catch and release.
10. Keep that line tight.

Remember they may not always be biting or it would be called catching not fishing.



Fishin' Pole Pack'n Paddle Trip Locations and Directions

2022 Trip and Event Schedule

Memorial Day Weekend

5/27 to 5/30

Location: Slate River Property

GPS Address: 10330 Bridge Port Road Arvonnia, VA 23004

We will have live music on Saturday night!

Business Meeting

Sunday 5/29 9:00 am

Kid Float

Saturday, 6/11

9:15am - 3:00pm

Volunteers are needed, please contact Erica Goode ASAP, esg3z@virginia.edu or 434-989-6603 if you are interested in paddling a child down the river or being a safety boat.

Please let us know if you have a boat and equipment, or if you need any equipment. Please also let us know if you have extra boats, life jackets, or paddles.

Camping will be open to all volunteers at the Slate River Property that weekend, beginning on Friday, June 10th

Labor Day Weekend

9/2 to 9/5

Location: Dierkes property on Rt. 60 at the James River Bridge at Bent Creek.

Dickel Bash

9/23 to 9/25

Location: Slate River Property

GPS Address: 10330 Bridge Port Road Arvonnia, VA 23004

We will have live music on Saturday night!

Business Meeting

Saturday, December 3rd, 2022

Location: Slate River Property

GPS Address: 10330 Bridge Port Road Arvonnia, VA 23004

ericagoode10@gmail.com floatfishermen.org'. At the bottom, it states: 'Free for children ages 7 -12 Lunch and t-shirts provided Limited spacing, registration required'."/>

KID FLOAT
SATURDAY, JUNE 11TH
9:15AM - 3:00PM

PICK UP AND DROP OFF AT THE JAMES RIVER
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Join the Scottsville Elementary School PTO, the James River Boys & Girls Club, and the Float Fishermen of Virginia for a fun-filled day on the James River. Kids will be paired up with an adult paddler, who will guide them on a beautiful stretch of the James River from Warren to Hatton.

For Info: ericagoode10@gmail.com
floatfishermen.org

Free for children ages 7 -12
Lunch and t-shirts provided
Limited spacing, registration required

Editor's Note

Call for Content!

Any member of FFV is welcome to submit content for the newsletter. Did you take a fun trip down a river in Virginia (or somewhere else)? Send me pictures! Did you read a good article about conservation efforts for our waterways? Send me a link! Are you an artist who has made work inspired by a river or paddling? Send me a picture of your work, your poem, or short story and we'll gladly include it in the newsletter.

Submissions are accepted year-round and can be sent to jaimenbaird@gmail.com, or you can text them to me at 845-464-6855.

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