



Fishing Pole Pack & Paddle (Summer 2025)

President's Paddle

FFV State Officers

President: Herb Coleman

herb@clachanproperties.com

Vice Presidents:

- Tony Adams: antonadams@comcast.net
- Bill Duncan: wduncan311@yahoo.com
- Rick Mattox: rickmattoxrva@outlook.com
- Ginnie Peck: ginniepeck@gmail.com
- Bill Tanger: riverdancer1943@gmail.com

Secretary: Lauren Jacobs

lorenjacobs32@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: Erica Goode

**Chapter Treasurers, please e-mail updated membership info to Erica @:
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: Rick Mattox

rickmattoxrva@outlook.com

Steve Keller Chapter: INACTIVE Contact Ginnie

Hello FFV family!

Man what a scorcher this summer has been. Hope everyone is staying cool. The Memorial Day float at R5 this year was terrific. The water level couldn't have been better. The music by Patrick Olivia knocked it out of the park again. And of course seeing everyone enjoy the weekend both paddling and socializing is what it's all about.

Reminder, the Labor Day Float will be at the Dierkes property at Bent Creek. We've got live music planned for Saturday night. Also for those interested, we'll be visiting the Allen's Creek property for a tour. Can't wait to see what Bill Tanger's team has been able to complete. Let's hope the weather cooperates with some great water levels and milder temps.

I want to give Erica Goode and her team a shout out for all the work they put into making the Kids Float a huge success. I know both the kids and the volunteers had a blast. Thanks to all that helped make this event a truly special and memorable day.

On a housekeeping note, I'm happy to report we had two scholarship applicants, Aiden Cullis and Jacob Bender. The Foundation Board voted to award each with a \$2000 check. Good luck to you both in your future endeavors!! The Foundation Board also voted to honor Greg Velzy with the Randy Carter award. Greg has been a long time employee of Chesterfield Parks and Rec and has been a devoted steward of the James River thru Richmond. Look forward to seeing everyone at the Labor Day float. Don't hesitate to reach out with ideas or feedback. And remember to bring a friend.

See everyone soon!!



Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2025

9:03 a.m.

Courtesy of Lauren Jacobs

Call to order: Herb Coleman

Herb called the meeting to order at 9:03.

Secretary Report (Approve Minutes):

Loren Jacobs

Rick motioned to accept the Secretary's Report

Membership Report: Erica Goode

No report

Newsletter Report: Gabby Safley

Need to add directions to Dierkes property to the newsletter.

Webmaster Report: Traci Martin

Need to add directions to Dierkes property to the website. Need to look into GoDaddy price increase from \$14.99 to \$25.99. Need to look into scholarship procedures.

FFVA Foundation Report: Bill Tanger

- Randy Carter nominees:

-Brian Hoofman, nominated by
Woodie Walker

-Greg Velzy, nominated by
Charles Ware

New Business:

We need someone to mow Allen's Creek for Labor Day Weekend. Rick will get with Mr. Dierkes to organize porta potties for Labor Day Weekend. Erica is looking into music for Labor Day Weekend. Check Facebook for pictures.

Kid Float Update:

Join us for camping at the Slate River Property after the Kid Float. We need volunteers! 30 kids signed up for the June 14th event.

Kid Float Update Cont:

We have extra boats if there is a volunteer that needs a boat to paddle a kid down the river. On average Andy and Katherine have provided \$800 to \$1000 in aluminum cans each year. Over \$4000 collected in total. Carter Myers Automotive generously donates \$250 every year. **Big shout out to Katherine, Andy, and Carter Myers Automotive!**

Help needed at Allen's Creek:

We have several new members from the signage on the property.

Old Business:

River Tax is due!

Annual Dues are due!

- \$20 for the state see your chapter for additional dues.

Adjourn:

Rick motioned to adjourn at 9:37. Bill seconded. Meeting adjourned.

HELP WANTED

After graciously volunteering to be the FFV treasurer the past few years, Mitch Sims would like to pass that responsibility to someone else in the organization.

If anyone is interested in volunteering to serve as the FFV treasurer, please notify Herb Coleman (herb@clachanproperties.com) or Mitch Sims (mitchsims@yahoo.com).



Randy Carter Award 2025

Courtesy of Rick Mattox

On Monday, June 30, 2025 several paddlers and outdoor activists met at the Pony Pasture put-in on the James River in Richmond to present the 2025 FFV Randy Carter Award to Greg Velzy. Attending the ceremony were Charles Ware, who recommended Greg for the award, Rick Mattox, Herb Coleman, Tyler Willoughby, Loren Jacobs, Ralph White (Manager of the James River Park System, City of Richmond for 32 years), Bryan Dierkes, Max Posner (James River Outdoor Coalition) and Graham Copeland (James River Outdoor Coalition board member).

Below is an excerpt from the RC recommendation submitted by Charles Ware in support of Greg Velzy:

- Greg has been employed by the Chesterfield County Department of Parks and Recreation for 28 years. He has led over 1,000 paddlers on the James through Richmond in his capacity with Chesterfield.
- Charman of the James River Scenic and Historic River Committee 2006 to 2024
- Member of the James River Advisory Committee
- Board of Directors of the Friends of the James River Park which funds projects within the James River Park in Richmond
- Founding member and chairman of the James River Outdoor Coalition for 20 years
- Member of the Coastal Canoeists

Congratulations Greg on this well-deserved award and thanks for your continuing contributions toward responsible recreational river enjoyment of the James River.

Below are some photos of the presentation.





The Allens Creek Cabin Update

July 14, 2025
Courtesy of Bill Tanger

Work continues on the FFV-FORVA river access property at Allens Creek, near Gladstone. This past weekend we had a dozen boaters put in at the creek access.

On June 14, Roanoke Chapter members Mo Byrd, Kent McGrath, Duck Stanley and Bill Tanger poured concrete footers for the cabin deck posts, pressure washed and scraped the wood siding on the cabin.

On July 5, Roanoke Chapter members Mo Byrd, Duck Stanley, Wayne Stanley and Bill Tanger worked on the cabin. We repaired a hole in the cabin vinyl siding, painted about half the wood siding and stored oak boards in the shed.



On July 12, Roanoke Chapter member Bill Tanger, and Dickels Chapter Ben Carter framed up the new deck to replace the old decrepit deck we removed last year.

Our next goal is to lay down the decking boards and put up the hand railing. The plan is to not have steps to the ground.

Please let these restoration workers know your appreciation.

So far we have had five boaters stay at the cabin, which now has a full bath with hot water, a microwave, mini fridge, toaster oven and coffee maker. One bed only so far. Looking for a futon if anyone had one to donate.



After Hopewell wastewater plant released raw sewage, officials outline health, environmental impact - July 15, 2025

Article written by: Charlotte Rene Woods and Shannon Heckt

Platform: Virginia Mercury

Submitted by: Catherine and Cris Leonard

Public officials are advising locals to avoid the James River in Hopewell and Richmond, after a weekend wastewater treatment plant malfunction released raw sewage into the waterway. They also said the region's recent heavy rains play a part in pollution in the river but don't expect long-term effects.

On Friday night, the Hopewell Wastewater Plant lost power and deposited about a million gallons of raw sewage into the James River. The most affected areas were Gravelly Run Creek and sections of the James from the Old City Point Waterfront Park in Hopewell downstream to the Berkley Plantation — areas local and state officials have advised people and pets to steer clear of for the time being.

“As long as there is no additional discharge, (Virginia Department of Health) expects to lift the advisory on Friday after the river system has time to flush out the sewage through dilution and degradation,” Brookie Crawford, risk communications manager with VDH, said Monday.

Crawford also recommended that people practice safe food handling if consuming fish they've caught and pointed to VDH's [fish consumption advisory](#) dashboard. As of Monday afternoon, there was no fish consumption advisory in place near Hopewell.

A Hopewell communications worker also confirmed that a permanent repair at the plant is expected to be done by the end of the week. WTVR first [reported](#) that faulty wiring at the water treatment plant had caused a power outage which led to the overflow.

Residential sewage and drinking water were not affected, but untreated sewage flowed unabated into the James River during the incident. The plant was fully operational by Saturday, officials said.

The Department of Environmental Quality is investigating the incident. They visited the facility on Saturday and will be working with the plant to find solutions to ensure another leak won't happen again.

A DEQ spokesperson said the sewage that entered Gravelly Run and the James River would have mixed in the water, making it impossible to clean up. Bacteria will die off over the next several days.

The swim advisory area is not expected to be expanded as the sewage moves downstream; DEQ believes it will be diluted and degraded. Recent heavy rains have led to more turbulent waters, which can also help with the breakdown of the sewage. If the plant remains operational, the swim advisory is anticipated to be lifted on July 18.

There are no long-term effects expected to impact the waterways. However, DEQ and VDH stress that people should not drink any untreated water, should shower after swimming, and should avoid swimming for three days after any significant rain.

Meanwhile, heavy rain poses additional health risks around Richmond since the city uses a combined sewage-overflow system. This means that heavy rains can allow a mix of stormwater runoff and sewage to become present in the river. Richmond has seen heavy rains most nights in recent weeks.

“Heavy rain picks up anything it comes in contact with, including germs from overflowing sewage, polluted storm water, and runoff from land,” Crawford said.

If a river or lake has a green film, a chemical odor, appears cloudier than usual or has multiple dead fish, Crawford said it's best not to get in.

State lawmakers have tried unsuccessfully for years to earmark \$50 million in the state budget to [overhaul the system](#), though it [survived negotiations](#) earlier this year.

[Find Article Here](#)



A Float Family



4th of July Weekend Float
Courtesy of: Markell Henderson



Rivanna River Float
Courtesy of Mary Bias



Memorial Day Float
Courtesy of: Mary Bias



Memorial Day with Erica Sims, Amanda Reeves, and Andy Kielar
Courtesy of: Mary Bias



Rivanna River Float // Courtesy of Mary Bias



2024 FFV Event Schedule

Labor Day Weekend:

Aug. 29 - Sept. 1, 2025

Location: Dierkes Property at Bent Creek

Dierkes Property Directions:

Traveling west from Richmond: Turn right as soon as you exit the bridge over the James on Route 60.

Traveling east from Route 29/Amherst/Lynchburg area on Route 60:
Turn left just before the bridge over the James.

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
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