

# Fishin' Pole Pack'n Paddle

## Winter 2022

### FFV State Officers

**President: Erica Goode**

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**Vice Presidents:**

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

**Secretary: Lauren Jacobs**

[lorenjacobs@yahoo.com](mailto:lorenjacobs@yahoo.com)

**State Treasurer: Mitch Sims**

[mitchsims@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:ffvbusiness@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Editor: Jaime Baird**

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

**Webmaster: Traci Martin**

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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**

[dickels.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:dickels.treasurer@gmail.com)

**Randy Carter Chapter: Ed Galloway**

[ewgalloway@verizon.net](mailto:ewgalloway@verizon.net)

**Roanoke Valley Chapter: Bill Tanger**

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

**Scotts Creek Chapter: Katherine Waller**

[kswaller@hotmail.com](mailto:kswaller@hotmail.com)

For information on paying dues please see FFV Webpage:

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

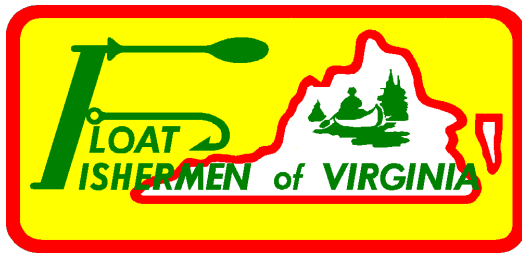
### President's Paddle

Hey FFV! I hope everyone is excited about the upcoming paddling season and the 2022 trip schedule. Thanks to all who attended the winter meeting, we tackled a lot and landed on a new spot to check out for Labor Day!

In case you haven't heard, we are bringing back the Kid Float!!! Please save the date for June 11, 2022 for the event. For newbies or those of us with bad memories, the Kid Float is designed to take kids who might not have the opportunity to paddle the river. We will paddle Warren to Hatton on the James in Scottsville and will need a bunch of volunteer paddlers, boats, and equipment. We are partnering with Scottsville Elementary school and the local Boys and Girls Club. We are looking for about 40-50 volunteers and are in need of kid-sized life jackets, sponsorships to cover t-shirt costs, and lunch. If you are interested in helping out in any way, please email me at [ericagoode10@gmail.com](mailto:ericagoode10@gmail.com) and I will add you to the list.

See you 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 will be doing survey work as there are no topo maps for the area! --- Bill Tanger

**Pigg River Dam Removal (Franklin County):** Just removed one huge 350-ton logjam! Planning a river float in April to celebrate!

Bill Tanger FFV: Mo Byrd, Duck Stanley, Jim Pickel, Ray & Pat Williams, & more.

**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 just bought 6 acres to improve a river access at Round Hill in Franklin County. ----- Bill Tanger

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

**Tinker Creek Restoration (Roanoke City):** Dam removal study found an active sewerline that would be exposed if we removed a downstream dam! But we may be able to remove another dam upstream... ----- Bill Tanger

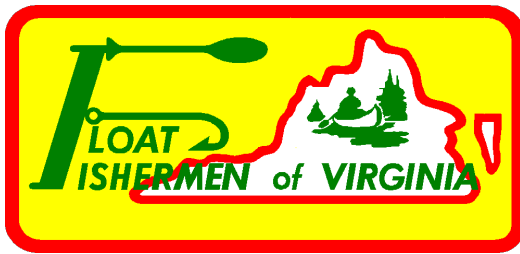
**Blackwater River (Franklin County):** Bought an acre of land at the Rt 122 crossing of the Blackwater River to provide better river access. Just did a survey of the acre. ----- Bill Tanger; FFV: Pat & Ray Williams; Creek Freaks of Franklin County.

**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 due to planting difficulties. --- Bill Tanger

**Blackwater River (Franklin County):** Working on removing a dam on the Blackwater River. Just got our permit to work in the river. We have the funds already. Start date Feb 1, 2022

**Big Otter River (Bedford County):** Giving up on the Big Otter site. Owner no longer interested. We should start looking elsewhere. --- Tanger; Kirkland; M & M Overstreet.



# River Access Fees Update

## Courtesy of Bill Tanger

**From:** [riverdancer1943@gmail.com](mailto:riverdancer1943@gmail.com)  
**To: Subject:** DWR river access fee - repeal bill

**Sent:** Saturday, January 22, 2022 2:19 PM

January 28, 2022

River friends:

An update on the noxious DWR river access fees.

As you know, FORVA got the fees put on hold for a year. Now the repeal bill is in the legislature, both in the senate and the house of delegates.

On Wednesday, January 18, my senator John Edwards (D) brought our bill SB141 before the Ag & Nat Resource committee. Several people spoke in support of repeal and DWR Director Ryan Brown answered questions and was supportive of the repeal bill.

Charles Ware and I attended by zoom and were prepared to speak. All those who did speak were strongly in favor of the bill and before we could speak, the Chair of the committee interrupted and moved to vote on the bill. He said it was clear it had great support and there was no opposition.

The bill was then voted on and the vote was 13 – 0 in favor of reporting out the bill. This moves it forward to the full senate which will occur later in the session.

Our repeal bill is also being sponsored by my state delegate, Terry Austin (R), in the house of delegates. It is HB463. On January 26, the bill was voted on in the House Subcommittee on Ag and Nat Resources. It was reported out on a vote of 6 – 0. Next it will go to the full House Ag and Nat Resource committee.

I hope all of you will be standing by as well in case we need you to contact your legislators. Each of you has a delegate and a state senator and I hope you will go on-line, type in “Who’s’ My Legislator” and find out who they are. Then make a note and keep it where you can find it.

Finally, FORVA has been incredibly busy over the past two years supporting good river projects and fighting bad ones like the access fees. We have not solicited donations in over 30 years, although some have made them anyway.

So in case you are willing and able, send a donation. You can call it the Access Fee Repeal donation. Tax deductible.

Bill Tanger, Chair

257 Dancing Tree Lane, Hollins VA 24019

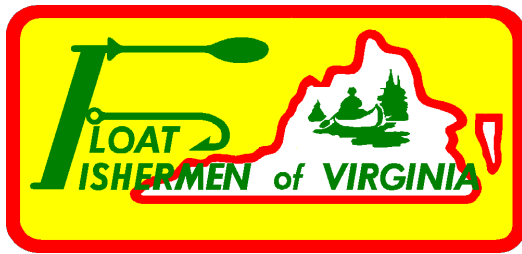
540-266-0237

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

Cell: 540-266-0237



DWR access fee repeal – 1-29-22



# James River Cleanup

From the Richmond Times Dispatch

## The James River's health has gotten better since the '70s. But improvement has stalled, report says

Eric Kolenich  
Nov 19, 2021



The James River and downtown Richmond are seen from the T. Tyler Potterfield Memorial Bridge on Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021.

Daniel Sangjib Min/TIMES-DISPATCH

Eric Kolenich

Improvement on the health of the James River has stalled over the past six years, in large part because heavy rains have carried more pollutants into the water, according to a recent report.

The James River Association, a nonprofit that monitors the river's quality, awarded the James a grade of B-minus, the same score it received in 2015, in its biannual report released Tuesday.

On a scale of 1 to 100, the association assigned a score of 61, one point below last year. The association noted the insufficient efforts to keep dirt, phosphorous and nitrogen out of the river and the near-disappearance of the shad fish. And it warned of increased risk due to climate change.

River pollution can affect drinking water, recreation, fish populations and the state's seafood industry.

To address the issues, the association called on the state to fund more than \$500 million toward slowing agricultural and stormwater runoff. The health of the James was a small piece of the campaign of Gov.-elect Glenn Youngkin, which called the James "an open sewer every time it rains."

"The river remains a river at risk," said Bill Street, CEO of the James River Association.

In the 1970s, the river's health received a failing grade. But the state has addressed the problem with expanded treatment facilities and initiatives for reducing pollution. Earlier this year, the state allocated more than \$400 million over three years toward clean water quality, a record number, Street said.

But the community is still struggling to keep dirt, or sediment, out of the water. Sediment pollution, which the report stated is “the greatest ongoing pollution problem in the James,” is often caused by agriculture and land development. The effort to reduce sediment was given a score of 33%, down 23 points from last year.

Sediment clouds the water, keeping grass from growing and fish from seeing their food. The association called on the state to spend \$361 million to address agricultural runoff through such programs as the Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share Program, which pays for conservation efforts like fences to keep cows away from streams.

Receiving a score of 59%, agriculture pollution prevention improved six points. Farmers have made substantial progress installing conservation practices and reducing agricultural runoff in the James, said Shawn Ralston, program director for the association.

Nitrogen and phosphorous are worrisome pollutants, too. They enter the river from wastewater, agriculture runoff and urban stormwater. The effort to prevent both elements in the water decreased over the past two years. Their presence in the water leads to algae blooms and poor water quality, killing fish and reducing habitats for other organisms.

Stormwater pollution prevention improved 2 points but received a low score of 34%. Stormwater can carry bacteria, dirt, oil and chemicals into the water. People are advised to sweep grass off their driveways instead of hosing them down and to use fertilizer sparingly.

The association called for the state to spend \$160 million over two years for the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund, which matches local dollars on stormwater management projects.

Wastewater is of particular concern in Richmond, where a third of the city's sewer system combines stormwater with wastewater. When a significant amount of rain falls, the sewers near South 14th Street overflow into the James. But statewide, wastewater is less of a concern, because localities have upgraded their sewers and treatment facilities. It will cost nearly \$900 million to replace Richmond's outdated sewer system, Mayor Levar Stoney has said.

The river received 6.2 million visitors last year, with Richmond's James River Park System the most attended destination. Fishermen harvest \$25 million worth of seafood in the river, and some of the world's largest oyster reefs are located here. Nearly 600,000 people have fishing licenses in the river's watershed, and the James has more public access sites than ever before.

The James is also the largest provider of drinking water in the state. Water treatment plants mitigate most of the pollution, Street said, but the more pollution, the more expensive it is for the plants to filter the water.

"What happens in the river is very important to our drinking water," Street said.

One species of fish, the American shad, has nearly disappeared from the river. An inhabitant of the river for centuries, shad was a main source of food for Americans before the Revolutionary War, and the fish was noted for its good taste.

But shad are on "the brink of collapse" here, the report stated. Dams block the fish from moving, water withdrawals suck them out of the river, and catfish prey on them. Virginia tried stocking the river with shad for 25 years, but the population has still reached an all-time low.

The association awarded shad health a score of 0%, meaning there is less than one-half a percent of the desired population.

“Virginia must develop an emergency recovery plan that clearly identifies immediate restoration actions,” the report stated.

Eagles, on the other hand, are flourishing. After having almost none in the 1970s, the James now has one of the densest populations in North America. The banning of pesticides and the passage of the Endangered Species Act in 1972 were key contributors, according to the report. The river’s score for eagles is 100%.

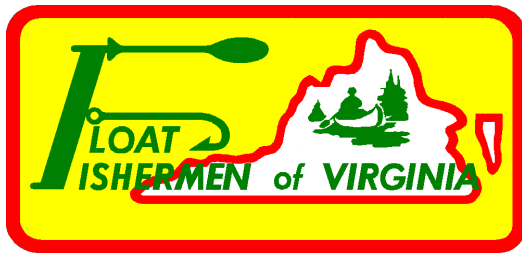
Oysters showed a “remarkable comeback,” improving 25 points to 74%, its highest score ever. Extreme levels of rainfall in 2018 killed off a number of oysters that year.

Richmond got 63.7 inches of rain in 2018, its highest total since the 1880s. Two years later, it received 63.5. The average rainfall has increased 4.5 inches over the past century, posing a risk of carrying more pollutants into the river.

Current regulations are not strong enough to keep pace with climate, the report stated.

“We need to have strong protection and restoration actions in place that promote the resilience of the river,” Ralston said.





# Trip Pics: Solitude

**Bunkhouse Remodel Potluck Get Together  
November 20th, 2021  
Courtesy of Brittany DiMassimo**

It was a great time at Solitude on Saturday, November 20th, 2021.

The bunkhouse rebuild was a success. We have a new and larger bunkhouse with windows and a door.

The old structure was moved and the frame used to cover the rafts and raft trailer. A new structure was set up and framed for the new bunkhouse. It's going to be warm and cozy with a wood stove.

The day was sunny and chilly. A fire was kept blazing and great food was grilled and enjoyed by all of us.

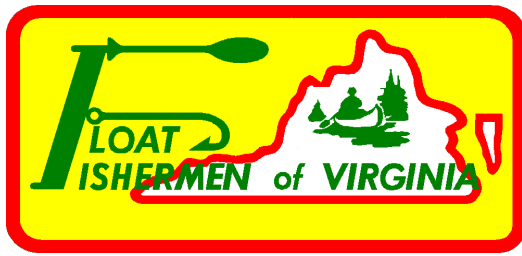
Special thanks for everyone that showed up and helped out. Some people even camped out and continued working the next morning.

Again, special thanks to Howard Kirkland, Bill and Juanita Tanger, Mo Byrd, Bonny Turner, Alan Joslyn, Duck Stanley, Brittany DiMassimo, Tom Christenbury, Jim Pickle, Danny Booker, Ken Ingram, John Glisson and Elizabeth for coming out.

SYOTR - Brittany



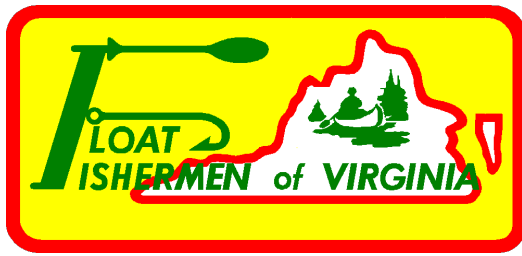




# Trip Pics:

Courtesy of Amanda Reeve





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

## 2022 Trip and Event Schedule

### **Back Creek/Douthat State Park**

4/1 to 4/3

Douthat Lodge is reserved and cabins are available to rent.

Location: 14239 Douthat State Park Rd., Millboro, VA 24460

Website: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/douthat>

### **Dickel Spring Fling**

4/29 to 5/1

Location: Rockfish River

GPS Address: 794 Farrar Bridge Lane, Shipman VA 22971

Contact: Ginnie Peck [ginniepeck@gmail.com](mailto:ginniepeck@gmail.com)

### **R5 Cajun Weekend**

4/22 - 4/24

Location: R5

GPS Address: 13300 Newbys Shop Rd, Remington, VA 22734

Contact: [ewgalloway@verizon.net](mailto:ewgalloway@verizon.net)

## **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!

## **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

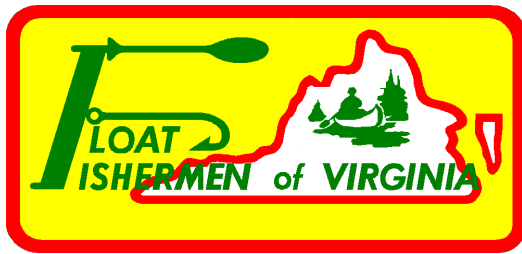
We will have live music on Saturday night!

## **Business Meeting**

Saturday, December 3rd, 2022

Location: Slate River Property

GPS Address: 10330 Bridge Port Road Arvonnia, VA 23004



## Meet a Member! Dale and Christine Ramsey

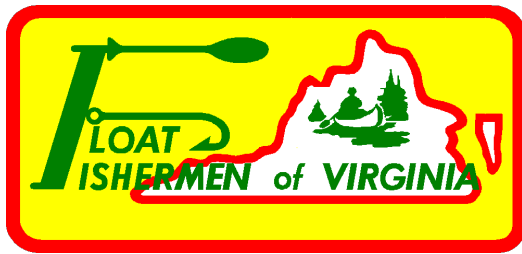


Dale and Christine Ramsey from Fishersville, VA. Dale works for a local school system as a network systems administrator. Christine is a case manager at a local rehabilitation hospital. Their 17-year-old son Nathan is a high school senior, and prefers short paddles that don't interrupt his weekend social life.

**Chapter:** Dickel Chapter

**Members Since:** 2020

**Most Memorable Paddle:** Shenandoah River from Port Republic to Island Ford, a beautiful 10 mile stretch of river!



## In Memoriam Robert “Bob” deRosset

Robert (Bob) Cowan deRosset, Jr. died on Friday, November 12, in Boiling Springs, North Carolina in his home with his wife of forty years, Shirley Craft deRosset. He is survived by his children: Samuel Mark Grainger and Lydia Grainger Powell (Jeff) of Boiling Springs, NC; Robert Cowan deRosset, IV (Leslie) of Raleigh, NC; Deborah Grainger Karahalis (Greg) of Huntsville, AL; and Ann deRosset Kovan (Andy) of Conway, SC. He is survived by his grandchildren: Jacob Grainger Powell; Sarah Caroline Powell; Theadora Lydia Karahalis; Leah Rhiannon Powell; Georgianna Katherine Karahalis; Alexandria Jean deRosset; Gabrielle Ann Kovan; Robert Cowan deRosset, V; Samuel Gregory Karahalis; and Claire Marie Kovan. He is also survived by his sister-in-law Catherine Dean deRosset of Christiansburg, VA, his niece Katherine Frances deRosset Uziel, and nephews William Milton deRosset, Louis Henry deRosset, and John Phillip Dean deRosset.

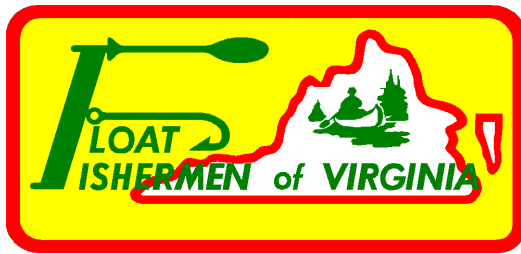
He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, William (Bill) Hammond Milton deRosset.

Bob was born on May 23, 1934 at Rex Hospital in Raleigh to Robert Cowan deRosset, Jr. and Ann Milton deRosset. He spent his formative years in Norfolk, Virginia. He studied at the University of Virginia and upon earning a Juris Doctor from University of North Carolina School of Law, Bob started his legal career in Belhaven, North Carolina. In Belhaven he met and married Sylvia Tripp, mother of their children Robert and Ann, and helped raise Sylvia’s other children, Joe Hassell, Mitch Hassell, and Sam Hassell.

Bob learned his love of canoeing, and was introduced to the Float Fishermen of Virginia, by his brother Bill. Bob and his family made many trips from Belhaven to Virginia in the family Peugeot, three canoes strapped on top. It was during this time that Bob convinced his brother Bill to navigate the New River Gorge in open canoes. They were among the first (and last) to do so and survived to tell the tale. Bob’s love of canoeing and camping continued through his years and he spent many days camping with the Float Fishermen and floating the rivers of Virginia with friends and family. As the years went by, the canoes got lighter, and the tents were replaced by camping trailers, but his love of being on the river stayed the same.

Bob was also known for his love of reading, and his historical knowledge is legendary. He was able to strike up a conversation with a stranger and, if needed, give them his last dime. No neighborhood or “grand” dog ever went without a treat. Known for his uniform of khaki or gray flannel pants, white button-down shirts, and black wool sweaters, he was never far from a glass of Pepsi or his Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups. Bob believed that the only place for car keys were in the ignition, the only music for the radio was classical, and seatbelts were a nuisance.

Every night before he went to bed, Bob tucked in Shirley, and said goodnight. When he went to bed he said, “I’m home. Thank you for saving my life.” He was loved by many, and will be missed.



# Meeting Minutes

## Courtesy of Rick Mattox

### *FLOAT FISHERMEN OF VIRGINIA*

#### *BUSINESS MEETING*

*December 4, 2021*

#### *Agenda*

- **Call to order:** **Erica Goode**  
The meeting was called to order by Erica Goode at 11:06 AM
- **Secretary Report:**  
Rick Mattox motioned to accept the minutes from the Labor Day meeting as published. The motion was approved.
- **Treasurer's Report:** **Mitch Sims**  
Mitch reported a current checking account balance of \$12,397 plus \$8,631 invested in CDs for a total of 21,028. This is an increase of \$904 year to date.
- **Membership Report:** **Ginnie Peck**  
155 members 20ish up from last year.
- **Newsletter Report:** **Jaime Baird**  
No report but great job by Jaime.  
There was a request for the printed copies to be in color.  
Please continue to send articles and photos to Jaime for inclusion in future newsletters.
- **Webmaster Report:** **Traci Martin**  
No report.  
GoDaddy bill for the website is being paid monthly.  
Trying to get more pictures of kids on the river for the website.  
It was suggested that we need a link on the current webpage to the foundation page (ffva.org).
- **Conservation Chair Report:** **Bill Tanger**  
River access fees on pause for a year. Bill has requested that we contact our General Assembly representatives to support repeal of the bill introduced in 2020 establishing river access fees. A study group facilitated by VCU has recommended repeal.  
Need sponsorship for watercraft sales and usage bill.  
FORVA working on dam removal on Blackwater River. Just got funding.  
FORVA continues to work on removing log jam on the Pigg River,  
Making progress on Balcony Falls take-out. Railroad supports the proposed takeout and working on new railroad crossing/trestle.  
See newsletter for other projects.
- **FFV Foundation Report:** **Bill Tanger**  
Big Otter project not moving forward. The current owner has not responded to offer to purchase by FORVA and FFV.  
Bill is asking the membership to be on the lookout for potential river access property for sale closer to the center of the state



Randy Carter Award: No potential candidates at this time. Bill is seeking recommendations for qualified candidates. Accepting suggestions for candidates committed to river conservation.

- Trip Schedule:
  - Back Creek/Douthat State Park: 4/1 to 4/3 Douthat Lodge is reserved and cabins are available for rent.
  - Dickel Spring Fling: 4/29-5/1 Rockfish River
  - R5 Cajun Weekend: 4/22-4/24
  - Memorial Weekend: 5/27 – 5/30
    - Location: Slate River Property (motion made and approved)
    - Port-o-johns: 1 (Ginnie \$100ish)
    - Band: \$500
    - Budget: \$75 for property owner
  - Labor Day Weekend: 9/2 – 9/5
    - Location: Dierkes property on Rt. 60 at the James River bridge at Bent Creek.
    - Port-o-johns: 3 (Rick Mattox)
    - Band: \$500
    - Budget: \$100
  - Dickle Bash: Oct (TBD) Slate River Property
  - Business meeting: Slate River Property, Saturday December 3, 2022

- **Old Business:**

\$100 donations to FORVA, American Rivers, and American Whitewater (motioned and accepted)

Federal budget has close to a billion dollars for water projects. Restore, Retrofit, and remove; issues with retrofitting dams with hydro. Keep an eye on projects concerning retrofitting dams.

- **New Business:**

Kids Float and river race in Scottsville: June 11, 2021

Partnering with Scottsville Elementary, FFV, and the Boys and Girls Club FFV to sponsor the event.

We are searching for funding opportunities to offset costs. We will need PFDs, paddles for the kids and funding for lunch.

Potential donor and sponsor –Katherine Waller will be working with Carter Myers dealerships – collecting aluminum to cash in for money. Need volunteers to collect aluminum from 20 dealerships across the state.

FFV donation- \$100 (Motioned, seconded and approved)

Bob deRosset Passed away and we would like to include a dedication to him in the newsletter

Women's Float- Slate River Property, June 25<sup>th</sup>

Looking for ways to simplify FFV dues payments such as Paypal or Venmo. Individual chapters looking into moving forward. Mitch will discuss options Memorial Day weekend.

Bill Tanger has made brochures for FFV and they are available if interested.

Looking into a possible WNRN community connection spot in the spring.

Tree planting ceremony to honor members who have passed away to be held Memorial Day Weekend – Dickel chapter funding

- Adjourn: Motion to adjourn 12:45, seconded, accepted

# 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](mailto: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