

FISHIN' POLE, PACK & PADDLE

FLOAT FISHERMEN OF VIRGINIA

WINTER 2013 ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S PADDLE



Salam everyone,

Wow what a great turnout we had at the Winter Meeting in spite of the post office curve ball. The meeting directions, some agenda items, date and time were in our mailboxes when we got back that day. I encourage everyone to go to our web page: www.floatfishermen.org and read Ginnie Peck's copious notes on all of the items discussed. We were busy I can tell you! Many thanks to all those that came and participated in the decision process and let's not forget those who brought the great food!! And the winner is: **FRY DADDY...YOU GO BOY! BEST FRIES EVER!**

I'd like to highlight some of the main points of this last meeting: We're finally going paperless. If you're reading this, it's probably electronically. Now our lovely Editor Allison can focus on editor stuff like being creative on our newly revamped newsletter instead of schleppin' to and from the post office to the tune of about a grand, only to be let down like our Fall newsletter. The newly resolved IRS issues (Katherine and Kitty-Thank you very much!) have caused us to look at ourselves and our direction through a new set of eyes. The cost is just one reason. Now we can introduce color graphics, texts and photos which enhances our general appearance to outside readers who may see us online. So send in more pictures, submittals, or anything else you would like to be considered for publication! I'm hoping the chapter presidents can help with the following: keep the Membership Chair apprised of all new members; any member e-mail address changes (sometimes there is a hot conservation topic like Senate Bill 737 where direct e-mailing is very important to generate support.) and keep up with those who depend on a mailed newsletter. We are hoping that number will be small as electronic mailings should be easier, more cost effective and can be more attractive to the eye.

There is a major change at the Memorial Day float scheduled for the Slate River Property. Instead of paying for and assigning a chapter to provide dinner, there will be live music (Tim & Steve we hope). We are encouraging whatever pot luck you want to contribute or just cook and eat like any other night. If this is successful then it can be voted on for the "Labor Day Float" in the meeting Sunday. As far as floats go, we are all reminded that any FFV Event, be it state or chapter sponsored, a primary function is river or stream clean up. We always want to leave it cleaner than we find it.

The website is going to be a bigger part of our lives. The membership, directors and officers will have a bigger role and responsibility in keeping the website looking sharp and functional with regular updating.

Our Webmaster, Bob Born, who lives near Greensboro, N. C., is just a keystroke away and is available for any input.

continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE...

WINTER MEETING NOTES	2
RIVER UPDATES	3
URANIUM MINING UPDATE	4
2013 TRIP SCHEDULE	5

WINTER MEETING NOTES

Editors Note: A full copy of the meeting notes can be found on the state website under Meeting Notes.

President, Tony Adams, called the meeting to order and jumped right in by thanking everyone for taking time out of their weekends to attend.

Secretary's Report: Ginnie Peck made a motion to accept the Labor Day Meeting minutes, submitted by Linda Van Luik, as printed in the Fall 2012 Fishin' Pole Pack and Paddle. The motion was seconded and carried.

Webmaster Report: Bob Born was not present for the meeting. He was unable to make the trip from North Carolina.

Discussion in regards to our current web page (*edited for space - please see website*).

Tony has been in communication with Bob Born. The plan is to make changes slowly and create a link to & from the State Web page & Chapter Websites to the Chapter Facebook pages & other similar sites & organizations.

The web page is our main hub for information, events, newsletters, bylaws, etc. Chapter Facebook pages are a great way to communicate chapter events, current news and last minute river trips.

A proposal was made that the Newsletter Editor, Treasurer and Membership Chair should be granted access to the Web page to post or make changes as needed per their duties. Tony and Allison have agreed to get together with Bob Born & Tim to move forward on this.

Membership Report: Membership Chair, Tim Stuller, was unable to attend the meeting. Each Chapter is responsible to update Tim with changes in membership. Chapter representatives should contact Tim in regards to electronic format, before sending updates.

Newsletter Editor: Allison Herbert reported that many newsletters got held up in "Bulk Mail Purgatory." We are slowly moving towards electronic newsletters. This is a process that will take time. The newsletter does get posted on the web page and

can be sent via e-mail to those that request it. (*edited for space - please see website*)

New Business: A proposal was made that the existing FFV web page be updated with a new format; www.weebly.com. This program allows easy access, easy picture & video downloads, blogs, newsletters, & secure member list updates. Tony & Allison have agreed to arrange a conference call with Bob Born to discuss the possibilities & report back Memorial weekend.

Taxes / IRS Business (*edited for space - please see website*)

Old Business: Coalition Against the Mining of Uranium; we have joined the coalition, which is actively seeking data to prove that the mining is safe. Tony Adams will keep us posted.

Treasurer Report: Katherine Waller reported, in writing for period of 7/31/12 – 10-31/12.

Conservation Report: Bill Tanger was unable to attend the meeting.

2013 Donations: Allison Herbert made a motion to increase our annual donations from \$100.00 to \$200.00 to each of the organizations listed below. Kitty Kimmel seconded the motion. No discussion followed the motion. The motion was carried.

- American White Water
- FORVA
- American Rivers

A donation to the James River Advisory Council has been tabled until the purpose of the council can be investigated. There is speculation as to whether the council still exists.

Rock Willoughby made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rick Mattox seconded the motion. No discussion followed the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.



Editor's Note

The opinions expressed in FPP&P are those of the author and not necessarily those of FFV or its members. Articles and material for publication may be submitted to the FPP&P editor. Preferred format: E-mail with attachments in Word, RTF, and/or JPEG. Dates for submitting material for publication: 1st of February, April, August and November. The Editor reserves the right to edit as needed. Comments, criticism and compliments are always welcome.

RIVER NEWS

VIRGINIA OUTDOORS FOUNDATION PROTECTED 26,375 ACRES OF OPEN SPACE IN 2012

Submitted By Kitty Kimmel, RCC Chapter

RICHMOND – The Virginia Outdoors Foundation permanently protected 26,375 acres of open space through 127 conservation easements in 2012—a rate of more than three acres every hour.

“I applaud the efforts of the Virginia Outdoor Foundation and VOF Board Chairman, Charles Seilheimer,” said Governor Bob McDonnell. “VOF is a key player in working to conserve Virginia’s many beautiful open spaces. When we conserve more open space we make Virginia an even better place to work, expand a business, and raise a family.”

“It’s a win-win when private landowners partner to conserve open space, working farms and forests,” said Doug Domenech, Virginia’s Secretary of Natural Resources. “We all benefit from enjoying Virginia’s natural beauty. It’s good for the environment as well.”

VOF recorded easements in 53 localities, including its first two easements in the City of Covington, which protect nearly a mile of a state-designated native brook trout stream, contain portions of a public hiking trail, and border the George Washington National Forest.

Smyth County had the most open space protected with 2,569 acres on five easements.

The 2012 easements include about 120 miles of streams, 11,000 acres of U.S. Department of Agriculture-designated high quality farm soils, and 1,700 acres along state-designated scenic roads and rivers, among other conservation values.

VOF now protects about 675,000 acres— more than 1,000 square miles—across 107 localities. That is an area three times larger than Shenandoah National Park. Roughly 75 percent of the acreage lies within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Conservation easements are voluntary agreements between private landowners and a qualified land trust such as VOF that restrict future development while allowing compatible uses such as farming, forestry, and recreation. Landowners who donate easements can receive state and federal tax benefits.

VOF was established by the Virginia General Assembly in 1966 to encourage the preservation of the Commonwealth’s natural and cultural heritage lands. It operates seven regional offices in Virginia and holds more conservation easements than any land trust in the nation.

PRESIDENT’S PADDLE (continued from page 1)

The key thing to remember folks is that we are a social organization with a general water resource conservation agenda and being in the eye of the public as attractively as we can, will help us attain new members and support so we can pass it along.



Riverside Memorial for Jay Graves on Back Creek - Douthat State Park Weekend April, 2nd 2011

L to R: Tony Adams, Paul Flynn, Rock Willoughby, Brian Van De Sande, John Burton and Rick Mattox.

The Douthat State Park trip is our next event. As usual, we have permission that weekend to paddle Back Creek, one beautiful river, in all weather and water conditions. And believe me brother when I tell you: this paddler has seen some conditions. I’ve dragged it... and it has dragged me!! And everything in between...breathtaking scenery...crystal clear turquoise water the whole way to Lake Moomaw. The lodging is very comfortable and inexpensive. The Friday night and Saturday night get-togethers are always memorable. Contact Rick Mattox for info.

T.T.F.N. and SEE YOU ON THE RIVER!

Tony ‘Guap’ Adams

MORE RIVER NEWS

URANIUM MINING AND OUR STREAMS IN VIRGINIA: POLITICS...POLITICS.

By Tony Adams

As most of you know a letter from the Float fishermen of Va. went out to many of our Senators and Legislators showing our support for Senate Bill 737, a bill to establish paddling and recreational rights on Virginia's second order and larger streams. Though it passed the Senate Agriculture Committee, and was supported by Senator John Watkins of Powhatan, it failed to pass in the full Senate. Senator Watkins said:

"... I voted for the bill because I felt that the citizens should have the opportunity to enjoy this wholesome recreational water activity while enjoying the abundance and beauty of the Commonwealth's natural resources..."

Sadly, the same Senator Watkins proposed legislation to establish state regulations for uranium mining, which would essentially allow for the 'lifting' of the thirty one year "ban" on uranium mining in Virginia. On Thursday, January 31st, he abruptly withdrew his proposed legislation in committee when the room was filled with opponents to uranium mining, thus ending the ban 'lifting' efforts for this year's General Assembly.

"It seems like a tricky 'end around'...but we're onto them and ready for 'em." said a fired-up member of the Sierra Club that Thursday.

Instead, the Senator reportedly asked the Governor to use his administrative power to have state agencies establish uranium mining regulations that the General Assembly could vote on in 2014, which is another tricky move that would pave the way for the ban to be lifted.

There are an estimated 119 million pounds of usable uranium ore in Virginia, making it the richest deposit in the U.S. The World interest is huge; the money is just as huge. The politics here is immense, overwhelming, and it isn't over by a long shot!

CURRENT STATE FLOAT FISHERMEN OFFICERS

President

Tony Adams: president@floatfishermen.org

Vice Presidents

Bill Duncan, Ken Ingram, Erica Sims Goode, Roc Cooper

Secretary

Ginnie Peck

secretary@floatfishermen.org

Treasurer

Katherine Waller

4422 Wakefield Road

Richmond, VA 23235

treasurer@floatfishermen.org

Conservation

Bill Tanger

P.O. Box 1750, Roanoke, VA 24008-1750

(540) 366-2228 H

bill.tanger@verizon.net

Membership

Tim Stuller

membership@floatfishermen.org

Webmaster

Bob Born

524 Columbia Ave.

Ramseur, NC 27316

webmaster@floatfishermen.org

Newsletter

Allison Herbert

9718 Kendrick Road

Richmond, VA 23236

editor@floatfishermen.org



4422 Wakefield Road
Richmond, VA 23235
www.floatfishermen.org
info@floatfishermen.org

2013 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!

*Please contact your Chapter Treasurer
for details.*

*We look forward to seeing you
on the river in 2013!*

2013 TRIP & CLEAN-UP SCHEDULE

Douthat State Park & Back Creek Clean-up: 4/5– 4/7

Contact: Rick Mattox, Scotts Creek Chapter

Spring Fling & Rockfish River Clean-up: 4/19 – 4/21

Contact: Ginnie Peck / Kathleen O'Farrell, George Dickel Chapter

Cajun Weekend & River Clean -up: 4/26 – 4/28

Contact: Pete Van Demon, Randy Carter Chapter

Appomattox River Clean-up: 5/4

Contact Ginnie Peck, George Dickel Chapter

Memorial Weekend & River Clean-up: 5/24 – 5/27

Location: Slate River Property

River Tax: \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per family

Potluck and Entertainment on Saturday night, details to follow!

FFV Meeting: Sunday 5/26 @ 9:00am.

Contact: Tony Adams, Scotts Creek Chapter

Kid Float & River Clean-Up: Saturday 6/22

Contact: Erica Sims, George Dickel Chapter

A complete schedule is available on the state website.