



# *Fishing Pole Pack & Paddle (Summer & 2023)*

## **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. Memorial Day will be at R5 and is sure to be a great time with friends and excellent paddling.

We are putting the final touches on Kid Float planning. The event is taking place on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> and we'll be paddling the James from Warren to Hatton in Scottsville. We're looking for volunteers to help paddle a kid down the river and will be sending the volunteer email soon, so be on the lookout! Thanks to those that have reached out to volunteer and those that have supported in other ways. We will be sending out details about shuttle logistics, etc. as we get closer to the event.

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

### **FFV State Officers**

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\*Chapter Treasurers, please e-mail deposit amounts to Bryon, 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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**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

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## *Currents & Eddies*

*Courtesy of Bill Tanger*

**Craigs Creek:** Fighting a lawsuit against the state of Virginia that attempts to stop navigation on the creek. Could set a very bad state-wide precedent.

**James River/ Allens Creek:** New access created by FFV and FORVA. Now share ownership of a critical access to the James. No other access for 20 miles upstream. ---- FFV & FORVA

**James River – Balcony Falls Take-out (Amherst County):** FORVA is working to find a political jurisdiction willing to partner on access development. Possibly Amherst County.  
--- Bill Tanger, FFV

**Roanoke River Niagara Dam Relicensing (Roanoke Center):** Working on recreational access issues along the river. APCo not very helpful. ----- Bill Tanger, Ro River Blueway

**Blackwater River (Franklin County):** Improving a 6-acre access on the Blackwater River at Round Hill Road in Franklin County. ----- Bill Tanger, Creek Freaks

**New River – Price Park (Montgomery County):** Improving a 50-acre park along Stroubles Creek in Montgomery County. --- Randi Lemmon and Bill Tanger

**Blackwater River (Franklin County):** New access on the Blackwater River at Rt 122 under development for a parking lot and an access ramp. ----- Bill Tanger, FFV: Pat & Ray Williams; Creek Freaks of Franklin County

**Statewide: Working on a proposal for dam recreational safety study and regulations to address the continued drownings at unsafe dams. If interested in helping, let me know.**

**Statewide: Working on No Tires in The River bill to end incentives for people to throw tires in the river rather than pay landfill fees.**

Also: Tucker Lane stormwater issue (Roanoke River);



## *More Money For Chesapeake Cleanup Likely From Virginia General Assembly*

*By: Timothy B. Wheeler*

The final curtain hasn't fallen yet on Virginia's 2023 General Assembly, but environmental advocates are celebrating likely increases in funding for cleaning up local waters and the Chesapeake Bay.

They're also feeling good about pulling out a surprising win on utility regulation while preventing or at least limiting rollbacks of ambitious climate, green energy, and Bay initiatives passed two years ago.

"We had a great legislative session," said Mike Town, executive director of the Virginia League of Conservation Voters, last week during an online wrap-up with activists. "I know we've been doing a lot of bitching and complaining the last 50 days, but it all worked out."

First, the money:

The General Assembly adjourned in Feb. 25 without reaching a deal on changes to the state's two-year budget, with Republicans and Democrats deadlocked over whether to cut taxes or boost education funding and give teachers raises. It's expected that legislative leaders will work out their differences, as they have in previous years, and return to Richmond for a special session sometime this spring to finalize a budget package.

Assuming they do – and that there are no shakeups in spending items already approved by each chamber- there could

-be significant funding increases for cleaning up water pollution and helping to restore the Bay. Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin has proposed adding the following amounts to his Democratic predecessor's two-year budget:

- \$237 million for upgrading wastewater treatment plants, on top of \$70 million allocated by former Gov. Ralph Northam.
- \$137 million extra in financial and technical support for farmers to adopt conservation practices, the first full funding of the state's agricultural cost-share program
- \$100 million to help Richmond fix its combined sewer system, which frequently dumps raw diluted sewage into the James River after heavy rainfalls

"All of that is unprecedented in what's being spent both on local water quality and for the Bay," said Peggy Sanner, Virginia executive director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

There are other funding boosts possible, pending further budget negotiations. Senate lawmakers voted to establish a pilot program to offer farmers grants to put in certain conservation practices considered cost-effective, such as stream fencing and streamside tree plantings. Funding remains uncertain.



## *More Money For Chesapeake Cleanup Likely From Virginia General Assembly Cont. By: Timothy B. Wheeler*

The two chambers also agreed in principle, but not amount, to help localities assess their forests and tree canopy and to encourage more recycling of oyster shells for use in restoring Bay reefs.

Environmentalists' batting average on nonbudget legislation was more mixed. The Virginia Conservation Network, a coalition of 150 green groups statewide, supported 14 bills dealing with clean water and flood resilience, but only five managed to pass both chambers.

Those bills, which await the governor's signature, represent "marginal progress on a variety of issues," said Chris Leyen, policy director for the Virginia League of Conservation Voters.

One of those small victories was a bill that will require industries using so-called "forever chemicals" to test for them in their waste streams and report the levels of any per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances are detected.

Legislation aimed at curbing plastic pollution died, though, including a bill that simply called for a study of the extent and severity of microplastics in public drinking water. So did a pair of bills that would have imposed limits on or just studied the growth of data centers in Virginia. Legislators instead approved an expansion of sales tax exemptions and grant funds for data center companies

looking to locate projects in the state. The came after an announcement in January that Amazon Web Services plans to spend \$35 billion to establish several new data center campuses in the state.

On the flip side, Leyen said, "We had a 100% success rate in killing all the bad bills."

Topping that kill list was legislation sought by Youngkin that would have suspended Virginia's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the compact of states in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic that regulates carbon dioxide emissions from its power plants.

"The 2020 law – the Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act- is still on the books and still requires Virginia to participate in RGGI," said Nate Benforado, senior attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center. He credited "a lot of different groups and partners" for beating back legislative efforts to repeal the law. The Youngkin administration continues to pursue regulatory action to withdraw, though, via the state Air Pollution Control Board.

Likewise defeated were several bills to rescind the state's adoption of the Clean Car tailpipe emission standards set by California, which are tighter than federal law requires and have been embraced by 15 other states.



## *More Money For Chesapeake Cleanup Likely From Virginia General Assembly Cont.*

*By: Timothy B. Wheeler*

Environmentalists also stifled a measure that would have exempted some predevelopment forest harvesting from erosion and sediment controls and stormwater management requirements.

A few bills passed after environmentalists withdrew their opposition, but only after the bills were amended to address their objections. Chief among them was utility reform legislation, which restored the ability of the State Corporation Commission to regulate electricity rates.

Town, of the League of Conservation Voters, called it “a true compromise,” which he said granted Dominion a higher profit margin – but not as high as it wanted – while protecting ratepayers from being overcharged. A provision to reverse the retirement of coal-fired power plants under Virginia’s 2020 Clean Economy Act was watered down to an informant-only annual report, he said.

Environmentalists also settled for a compromise on portions of Virginia’s Bay cleanup timetable. A pair of lawmakers introduced legislation that would have extended the deadline by four years to 2030 when livestock farmers must fence their herds from streams and crop farmers must have approved nutrient management plans.

The Bay Foundation, contending that the extension would hamper Virginia’s Bay

Restoration efforts, pushed back. After negotiations, lawmakers trimmed the delay by two years, but with an important caveat: The 2028 deadline will stand only if the state provides full funding annually for the programs that pay farmers for such conservation practices.

“We are reasonably satisfied with it, thought it did not go as far as we had hoped,” Sanner said.

There also were some modest legislative moves on the fisheries front:

- Lawmakers agreed to provide \$2 million to help expand the processing of blue catfish for marketing. The invasive fish, introduced years ago in an effort to enhance sportfishing in Virginia, have spread throughout the Bay watershed and are feeding voraciously on crabs and other fish. Only a few seafood dealers are processing blue catfish in Virginia now because of restrictive federal inspection requirements.
- Legislators also approved a new grant program to encourage restaurants and markets to recycle oyster shells, though the amount remains in question.
- A bill that would have directed the Virginia Institute of Marine Science to study the ecological and economic impacts of the industrial menhaden fishery in the bay instead asks VIMS to submit a plan for undertaking such research.



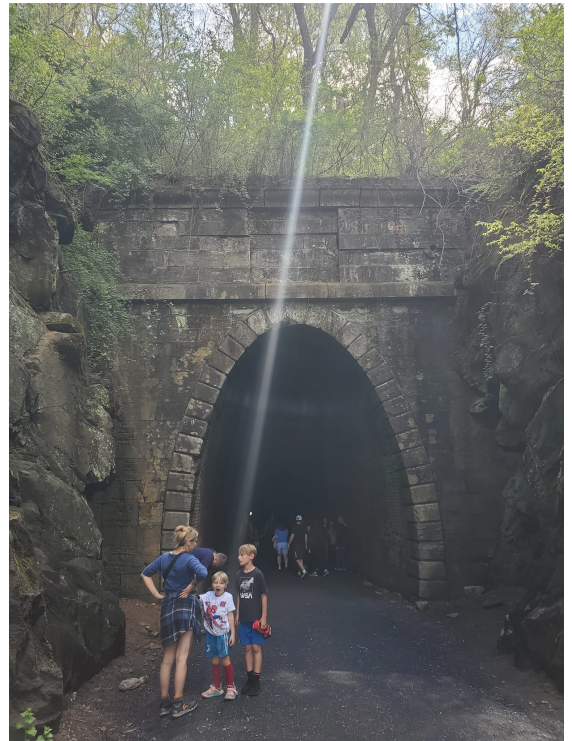
*A Float Family*  
*Photos Courtesy of Amanda Reeve*



The Gang's All Here! (Dickel's Spring Fling 2023)



Happy Birthday Corinne! (Dickel's Spring Fling 2023)



(Dickel's Spring Fling 2023)



## *2023 FFV Event Schedule*

Memorial Weekend

May 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Location: R5 (address:

Kids Float:

June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Location: Warren Ferry to Hattons Ferry

Labor Day Weekend

Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>– 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Location: Solitude or Fukowa

### **Directions to R5**

**From Charlottesville: Take US 29 North to Culpepper, Take Bus 29/15 just before Remington, Turn right on SR 673 ( <.25 mi.), Turn left into the campground < .5 mi. after railroad crossing.**

**From Warrenton: Take US 29 South Toward Charlottesville, Turn left after crossing Rappahannock River onto Bus 29/15, Turn right SR 673 ( <.25 mi.), Turn left into the campground < .5 mi. after railroad crossing.**

**From Fredericksburg: Take US 17 West toward Warrenton, at Bealeton left on SR 28 to US 29/15. Turn right on SR 673 (<.25.), Turn LEFT into the campground < .5 mi. after railroad crossing.**

# *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.**

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