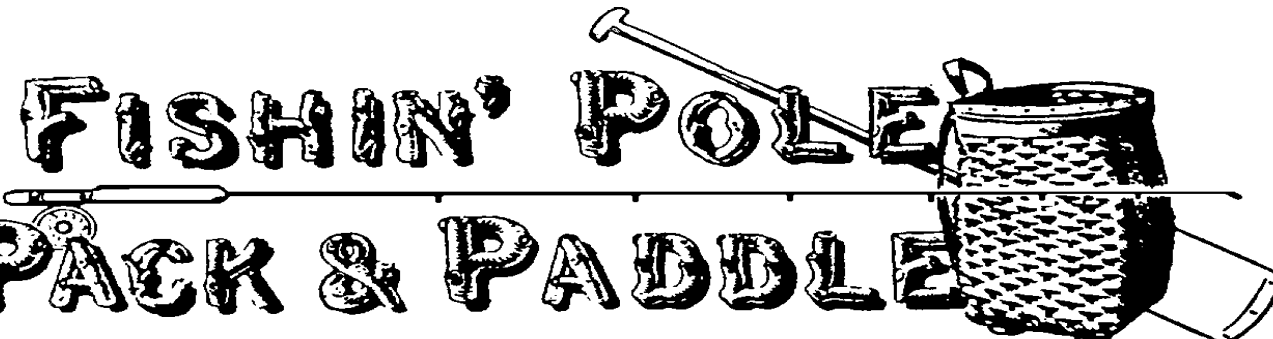


# FISHIN' POLE PACK & PADDLE



*Float Fishermen of Virginia*

*Summer/Fall 2004*

## Labor Day Meeting September 3-6 New River



**Whitt Riverbend Park, Pearisburg, VA.**

The annual Labor Day meeting will be held Sunday September 5, 2004, but plan to be there for the whole weekend at Whitt Riverbend Park on the New River.

This 28-acre river bottom park, maintained by the town of Pearisburg, is located at the confluence of Big Walker Creek and the New, midway between the towns of Pembroke and Ripplemead Virginia.

Some of the finest fishing and floating in the state is available both upstream and down on the New River. Bruce Ingram, in *The New River Guide* describes the Ripplemead to Bluff City section as "the rowdiest section of the New River in Virginia." The area is particularly well known for both muskie and smallmouth.

Sunday's meeting will include the announcement of next year's slate of officers. Also, the fundraiser for the Float Fisherman of Virginia Foundation will conclude with the raffle drawing for the 2004 Mad River Explorer TT.

*(continued on page 6)*

## *The President's Paddle*

"I tell you one thing," time flies when you're having fun. It has been a pleasure serving as the FFV President over the last two years. I have learned a lot about our club over that time, and I have met many nice people who are involved with FFV along the way. Thank you to all of my officers. It was a pleasure to work with each of you. I can honestly say that it has been a great experience.

Thank you to all the effort that went into our VIP float. Thanks to everyone who did show up. As many of us found out, the VIP float needs a lot of help. I think I will hold the record for the lowest VIP turnout for this event. LOL. Even though the turnout was low, I believe that everyone had a good time, a good dinner and breakfast. Thanks to Tim and Steve and the unknown backup band (Buster and Shane) for the great music around the campfire.

Our Labor Day Float is on the New River at Whitt River Bend Park. A great campsite that has lots of space along with many trains passing through during the night. Great for sleeping...NOT. The river is filled with great scenery and some big small mouth bass swimming around, ready for what ever is tied on the end of my fishin' line. Come join us for the festivities and our Labor Day Meeting where the "Passing of the Paddle" will be done welcoming John VanLuik as our next President. The election/reelection of officers will also be on the agenda.

See you on the River,

Bryon

**FLOAT FISHERMEN  
OF VIRGINIA, INC.**

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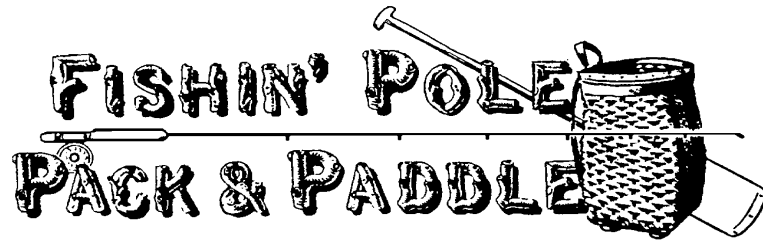
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## Memorial Day Meeting

*Shenandoah River (The Ledge), May 30, 2004.* President Bryon Jones called the meeting to order and asked for reports.

**Minutes** from the winter meeting as posted in the *Fishin' Pole Pack and Paddle* were accepted.

**Treasurer** Tim Henness presented the club's finances from December through May. The beginning balance was \$2,866.07. Total income during that time period was \$2,515 and expenses were \$2,732.82. The ending balance was \$2,657.82. The Certificates of Deposit beginning balance was \$6,845.25 and the ending balance was \$6,970.76.

**Newsletter Editor** Linda VanLuik announced her resignation would become effective after the Summer/Fall issue is completed. Anyone interested in editing the newsletter can contact Linda or the Nominating Committee.

**Conservation chair** Bill Tanger reported on a variety of issues. Both the state house and Senate have voted against damming the Marttaponi; VIMS is still opposed to damming the river and recommends a two-year study and perhaps a long-term study taking 8 years. Five snake heads have been found in the Potomac. FORVA is working towards an education project about invasive species in Virginia. FORVA is also looking at getting citizens on the Virginia Invasive Species Council, which is now composed, solely of state government heads.

*(continued on page 3)*

## Memorial Day Meeting

(continued from page 2)

A 303D report required under the clean water act shows that 52% of Virginia's waterways are polluted, an increase over what was found to be polluted in the last such report; FORVA is working on an op ed piece in relation to this issue. The State Water Control board will be welcoming a new member who is conservation-minded; his name will be released later. The state has purchased property around Dragon run, some of which will become a state forest.

**Membership chair** Don Leeger reported that the state organization's membership is approximately 180. Don encouraged chapters to contact old-time members and ask them to re-up. If folks are not receiving their newsletters, Don requested that you check with him to see if the roster lists your correct address.

**Webmaster** Bob Born stated that the webpage is stable; the schedule receives ongoing updates and get information to him if you wish to add something. The cost for maintaining the site is \$140 annually. There are still some problems with Email; don't open ones that are supposedly from FFV and end in .info or .sales.

As part of the **Foundation Report**, Cris Leonard introduced the next topic of discussion: determining the direction of the Float Fishermen of Virginia Foundation. The Foundation was originally formed to receive property. The Foundation did not receive this property, but has since considered other properties. The question at this point is: does the foundation exist solely to acquire property or should the foundation embark on new activities; if so, what should they be? Rick Mattox of the Foundation introduced other members of the Float Fishermen Foundation. Rick Mattox has been receiving members' comments and will compile them and devise a survey to ascertain what the majority of members would like to see the Foundation accomplish. Ideas generated so far: acquire property, purchase land and give it to another organization, such as a state or local governing body, and sponsor scholarships for young persons going into conservation. FFV President Bryon Jones then moderated a discussion that included these topics: the tax-exempt status of the Foundation, property

liability issues, exact wording of the FFF corporate charter, the autonomous nature of the FFF in relation to the FFV, and the possibility of maintaining separate funds for different purposes such as property acquisition, scholarships, conservation projects.

**Old business.** It was moved and approved that Cris Leonard will purchase small **FFV stickers**. Ginnie McDonnough provided a **VIP update**. Only two or three VIPs RSVPed. Bruce Ingram will be at the evening festivities to sell and autograph his book; proceeds will go to the Foundation. Scotts Creekers are cooking dinner; the Apps are providing breakfast, RCs will do bar duties, Dickels and Kellers will provide shuttle.

The **Annual Randy Carter Memorial Award for River Conservation** was presented to Thom Savage for his long-term, on-going efforts to help preserve the Rappahannock, Rapidan and their tributaries. Tom received his award and shared how he became interested in river conservation: the pollution he saw in Newark, New Jersey inspired him to help keep Virginia rivers clean.

Don Leeger announced that members **Boris and Luda have received their US citizenship**.

In relation to on-going **access issues**, Bill Tanger stated that CSX's Roadmaster may come take a look at a possible access on the Balcony Falls section of the James. The James River Association is supporting a James River access in Lynchburg at Seventh Street.

Byron then adjourned the meeting with everyone's approval.

*Submitted by Linda VanLuik in the absence of Secretary Wright Ellis.*

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### New editor for *Fishin' Pole, Pack and Paddle*

Thanks to Bob Pillow for assuming his new role as Editor for *Fishin' Pole, Pack and Paddle*. Bob is responsible for laying out the majority of copy for this current issue. Please give him your support by submitting news articles, trip reports and other items that are of interest to the membership.

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**Mississippi EMAILS: Memphis, Tennessee  
To Greenville, Mississippi , November 29, 2002**

I want to learn how to fly, and to surf, and to sew. I want to take the Siberian Express from Moscow to Beijing and ride a motorcycle from Homer, Alaska to the tip of Patagonia. I want to know what it is that I'm gonna be when I grow up. I want to go bobsledding. Bear with me here. I want to sail across the Atlantic, sea kayak the Pacific Isles, raft the Zambezi, paddle a wooden dory down the Colorado, and travel the lengths of the Amazon, Yangtze, Ganges, and Nile. I want to learn the stars and how to speak Swahili. I want to know what it feels like to be in love. I want to spend a season on Antarctica, sip coffee in a Paris cafe, ride my bike around Ireland, and anchor myself in a foreign country for a while. I want to build a treehouse and raise a kid or two in it. I want to be famous. And I want to paddle the Mississippi, damn it!

I do doubt that I'll be able to have and do everything I want in life -- but I'm sure gonna try. I will not quit. I cannot quit. I am not quitting! However, I am not going to paddle into New Orleans. That is the compromise that has been made between my sensible and adventurous selves. I will paddle my little red canoe as far as Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where I will -- somehow -- find a ride through the final 120 miles of industrial chaos into New Orleans (think St. Louis x4, with ocean-going tankers and alligators added to the confusion). Baton Rouge, New Orleans, or the technical end of the river in the middle of the swamp somewhere south of New Orleans, I will be satisfied with any of them. I will finish

The temptation to quit was stronger than ever on the docks of Memphis. It was there that I met a fellow traveler who had floated his enormous, totally tweaked-out aluminum canoe into Memphis 3 years ago and is still stuck there. He's trying to save up enough money to head south, but has no desire to canoe the rest of the way -- he seemed to feel the same way I did about the river after St. Louis. His plans were to ship his canoe down to the coast and continue on into Florida from there. Sounded good to me

Anyway, the traveler told me about a deal the Yacht Club had just made with a hotel in downtown Memphis. I could shower for 2 straight days for only \$20 a night, so I eagerly agreed to be their guinea pig. The cab driver, who was so fat he couldn't squeeze out from behind the wheel to help me with my bags and didn't even come close to being able to button his pants over his nappy boxers, he assured me that the hotel was OK. This worried me. I did manage to convince the hotel manager (a Patel, of course) to put a deadbolt on my door, but I can honestly say that the brothel I found myself at in El Salvador last year was cleaner and quieter than this place. I left after the cops

were called to break up a fight in the parking lot on the second night.

Clean and somewhat refreshed, I was loading up my canoe when an older guy, looking very much like a sailor, came up to me and asked whose cat it was that walked right up to him and said hello, just like a dog. That had to be Coyote. The sailor and I got to talking. He and his wife are retired newspaper people from Michigan traveling down to Key West in their gorgeous Mahogany cruiser to live for a bit. It's the second time they've done the trip and, when they found out how hesitant I was about continuing, they offered me a ride. Very, very tempting, to say the least. But I wasn't quite ready to give up completely. Plus, my mom had already bought her plane ticket to meet me for Thanksgiving and I really didn't want to disappoint her. I do imagine, though, that if we didn't have those plans, I would have quit right then and there and rode into New Orleans in style.

But I'm glad I didn't quit. Thanks, mom. I was rewarded for not giving up with 7 straight days of sunny weather. I took my socks off and let my feet air out. Coyote climbed into my lap to sun himself. I allowed my boat to simply float in the middle of the channel. I relaxed and admitted dominance to the river. And the river calmed down. We've made up. We're friends again.

It took me two days to figure out why the river wasn't the mean monster it was before Memphis. The floodwaters had receded some, which made the areas around the wing dams a much less violent. But that wasn't all of it. It was a little wider, but it had to be more than that because the river had slowed up, considerably. It had to be deeper. I found out how much deeper a few days later -- 110 feet. Cool. I just wished I had a lifejacket for Coyote George.

The kid is growing up so fast. He's tall and handsome now and has actually begun to slow down a little and cuddle. Don't worry -- he's still a kitten who thinks feathers are the bestest toys in the world and his best playmate is still his shadow. But he has discovered hunting. He has become Coyote George the Tiger in Training. That little paw goes into every hole he comes across and he endeared himself to me by bringing me his first catch (a leaf blowing down a sandbar). He was just so proud, with his tail way up in the air as he pranced back to me. But he has also developed a very annoying habit. Every morning he climbs up the tent walls and onto the ceiling, with all 4 paws clinging to the nylon as he just hangs there -- upside down -- until I show the first signs of waking. Then he drops onto my face. Yep, that's my Coyote. .

--Carley Reiter (*Reprinted with the author's permission from the Canoe Cruisers' newsletter*)

## News Briefs...

### Northern Snakehead, Invasive Species

The number of northern snakehead fish caught in the area is rising. A fisheries biologist with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) caught the 14th fish while electrofishing in Dogue Creek July 19th. That fish came in at just over 16 inches in length. Fish number 13, which was caught just the day before at the same location, measured just over 17 inches in length and was a mature female full of eggs. Anglers, commercial & tournament fisherman, and biologists have caught fish ranging from 12 to 17+ inches over the past several months.

Anglers who think they may have caught a snakehead fish are asked NOT to release it, but to call the Department's in-state toll-free, 24-hour Snakehead Fish Hotline at 1-800-770-4951 for a positive identification of the fish (out of state call 804-367-1258).

Anyone fishing in the Potomac watershed should check out the VDIGF web site for more information:

[www.dgif.state.va.us/fishing/snakeheads.html](http://www.dgif.state.va.us/fishing/snakeheads.html)

The web site includes a map of catch locations, identification chart, FAQ, and the latest press releases on this important topic.



### City of Lynchburg Opens New Boat Ramp

Lynchburg City Council approved the opening of a boat ramp at the foot of Seventh Street, providing access to the James River. Parks and Recreation Director Kay Frazier recommended a one-year trial period to assess the public demand for the ramp and to determine if problems arise from opening the area for public use located near Griffin Pipe and active.



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***There will be a Foundation meeting on Labor Day weekend, immediately following the club's general business / membership meeting on Sunday morning. FFV members are welcome to attend.***

railroad tracks in the downtown area. The city held a grand opening and ribbon cutting on July 1 to dedicate the new ramp.



### State Water Control Board Appointment

Governor Mark Warner announced the appointment of Shelton Miles, III of Long Island to the State Water Control Board. Miles is a farmer and pastor of the First Baptist Church of Republican Grove, chairman of the Roanoke River Basin Commission Citizens Committee, and former member of the Water Policy Technical Advisory Committee.



### Virginia Environmental Assembly Set for September 18, 2004

A joint venture between the Virginia Conservation Network and the Piedmont Environmental Council, this year's Virginia Environmental Assembly promises to provide a comprehensive look at the connection between land use, the Commonwealth's major rail and road transportation corridors and our environment. The Assembly will take place at the historic Barboursville ruins at Barboursville. For information, go to [www.valcv.org](http://www.valcv.org)



### EPA Proposes New Standards for Chesapeake Bay

On July 18, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced that sewage treatment plants in six states and the District of Columbia will be required to reduce discharges of nitrogen and phosphorus. These nutrients in excessive amounts deplete dissolved oxygen necessary for the survival of marine life in the Chesapeake Bay. The EPA's plan is expected to take place next year after states in the Bay's watershed revise their water quality standards. The EPA's proposal comes on the heels of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's plans to file lawsuits challenging permits that Virginia has issued to Philip Morris USA and the town of Onancock. The EPA will collect public comments on the plan at its website until September 15.



## Chesapeake Bay Foundation to Sue the Commonwealth of Virginia

In a July 19<sup>th</sup> press release the Chesapeake Bay Foundation announced its intent to sue the Commonwealth of Virginia for issuing two pollution permits in violation of the federal Clean Water Act and Virginia's Water Control Law.

The legal action stems from pollution permits issued by the State Water Control Board and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to Philip Morris USA and the Town of Onancock. Philip Morris operates a tobacco processing plant in Chesterfield County that annually discharges thousands of pounds of nitrogen pollution into the James River, a waterway designated as one of Virginia's "dirty waters" because of excessive amounts of nitrogen pollution. The five-year permit the state granted to Philip Morris in June allows the company to increase the amount of nitrogen pollution it dumps into the James. The Town of Onancock's sewage treatment plant discharges nitrogen pollution into Onancock Creek, another waterway on the "dirty waters" list because of excessive pollution levels. This summer, Onancock Creek is suffering from nearly lifeless oxygen levels because of nitrogen pollution. Onancock's new five-year permit from Virginia, however, contains no nitrogen pollution limitations whatsoever.

Before going to court, CBF attempted for more than a year to resolve the concerns with the state, urging it to issue permits in compliance with federal and state law. CBF sought and obtained federal guidance, provided legal analyses, attended meetings with state officials and submitted extensive scientific documentation. "Litigation is the only tool left," noted Hoagland. "All we are seeking is compliance with state and federal law."

For the complete text of the press release visit the CBF web site at:

[http://www.cbf.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=9107&security=1&news\\_iv\\_ctrl=1081](http://www.cbf.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=9107&security=1&news_iv_ctrl=1081)

♦♦♦



## Chesapeake Bay Foundation Honors Delegates Opposing King William Reservoir

Delegates Ryan T. McDougle, R-Mechanicsville; Harvey B. Morgan, R-Gloucester; and Albert C. Pollard, Jr., D-White Stone have been named Legislators of the Year for their leadership in defeating legislation favoring the construction of a reservoir planned by the City of Newport News. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation has long opposed the King William Reservoir project which would be environmentally destructive. Several bills that would have facilitated the reservoir's construction were introduced during the past legislative session and defeated, largely due to the leadership of Delegates McDougle, Morgan and Pollard.

♦♦♦

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## Annual Canoe Auction

### Shenandoah River Outfitters

#### *New and Used Canoes for Sale*

September 25, 2004, 11:00 A.M.

➤ **Old Town Canoes** ◀

➤ **Shenandoah Canoes** ◀

➤ **Other kayaks and misc. gear** ◀

Shenandoah River Outfitters and River Cabins

6502 South Page Valley Rd., Luray VA 22835

540-743-4159 800-6CANOE2

<http://www.shenandoahriver.com/>

## Students Learn About Rivers With Help from Local Conservationists

Seventh graders at Hamilton-Holmes Middle School in King William County are finding out about tides, estuaries, salinity, watersheds and fish migration. With the help of Dawn Shank, retired from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation; Billy Mills, Director of the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers Association conservation group; and school librarian Audrey Mitchell, local educators have created a middle school curriculum based on King William County's natural assets. As part of their cross-curriculum study in art, history and science, students have raised shad fry and then released them into the rivers. Shank says it is important for students to have a good understanding of where they live. King William currently faces growth pressures from Hampton Roads and Richmond that will place demands on the County's water resources as well as contribute to increased subdivision development.



### **! Dickel Bash on the Rockfish River !**

The annual Dickel Bash this year will take place on the Rockfish River, September 24-26. Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased at the event. Kids under age 10 are free. Camping is open beginning Friday anytime thru Sunday afternoon.

Depending on river levels, the float on Saturday will be from Route 29 to SR 617 or 639. This section was dubbed "the finest canoeing on this small river" by Roger Corbett (*Virginia Whitewater*). Fishing can be quite good, the paddling is easy with one or two small rapids and a few ripples, depending on the level and length of the float.

Saturday night will feature a meal with a main course of boston butts and chicken breast quarters, musical entertainment, and of course a campfire. There is always the possibility of midnight football as well, moon providing.

We will also be raffling a 16' mad river explorer that Saturday night. The tickets for this will be \$5 per ticket or 5 tickets for \$20.

Contact Ginnie Peck ([ginnie@floatfishermen.org](mailto:ginnie@floatfishermen.org)) for more information. All chapters are welcome!

## **A Letter from the Conservation Chair**

Fellow Boaters,

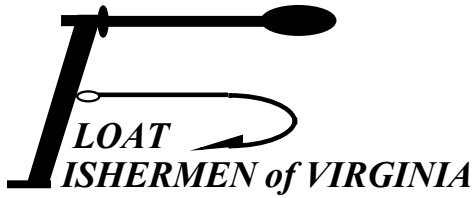
In the past I have encouraged volunteers to work on conservation issues or projects for the FFV. I would like to take a moment to suggest that we form up a conservation committee to help cover some of the things going on that could use some help. Frankly, one person alone cannot do justice to the needs of our rivers in Virginia today. Right now, for example, there are more than a dozen issues that could use help from more people, and a committee often works better than just individual volunteers.

Some of these include:

- ✓ New River Wild and Scenic designation.
- ✓ Cushaw Project & James River access: need letters from legislators.
- ✓ Dam removal project; next dam target. research: McGaheysville Dam? Harvell? Rapidan?
- ✓ New River Blueway meeting Friday.
- ✓ Exceptional Waters Hearings.
- ✓ Roanoke River access at Explore Park.
- ✓ Invasive Species problems: Potomac Snakeheads, education projects, etc.
- ✓ A new approach to legislators instead of the VIP Float.
- ✓ Mattaponi hearings re VMRC, etc.
- ✓ Relicensing Claytor Dam on New River.
- ✓ Railroad liability issues for river access.
- ✓ Minimum Flow issues: Water Resources TAC (Technical Advisory Committee).
- ✓ Minimum Flow Studies: New River coming up this summer, and others behind it....

Anyway, you get the idea. I solicit your comments and input on the idea of a Conservation Committee and/or some volunteers to add to our conservation efforts. Hope to hear from you, pro or con....

Bill Tanger, FFV Conservation Chair



P.O. Box 1895, Hayes VA 3072-1895

[www.floatfishermen.org/](http://www.floatfishermen.org/)

[info@floatfishermen.org](mailto:info@floatfishermen.org)

## Labor Day Meeting

*(continued from page 2)*

The site will be available for camping Friday, September 3 through Labor Day, Monday, September 6.

**Directions:** From interstate 81 take US 460 west at the Christiansburg exit. Continue on 460W around Blacksburg, through Pembroke (watch your speed!) and over the New River. Take the first (Pearisburg) exit after crossing the New, and make a right onto SR 636. Continue through the town of Ripplemead, across the railroad tracks, and under the 460 bridge. The road ends at the park's entrance.

Maps and directions are also available on the web site. SYOTR!

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## Upcoming Events:

### September 24-26

Dickel Bash on the Rockfish River  
*(George Dickel Chapter)*

### November 24

Winter Dinner Meeting - York County  
*(Steve Keller Chapter)*

### December 4-5

Winter Meeting, Cumberland State Forest  
*(FFV)*

See the website at  
[www.floatfishermen.org/ffyschedule.html](http://www.floatfishermen.org/ffyschedule.html)  
for more information