

FISHIN' POLE PACK & PADDLE

Float Fishermen of Virginia

Spring/Summer 2005, No. 3

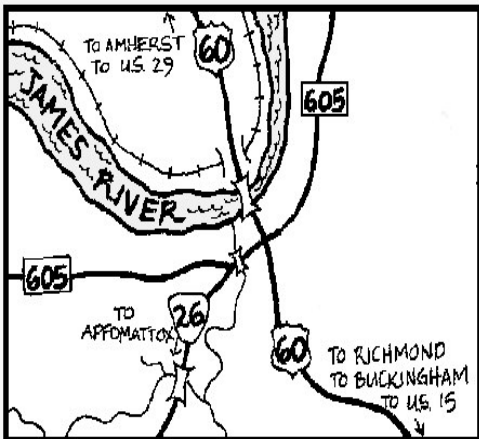
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*Labor Day Float & Business Meeting
 September 3-5*

James River at David's Creek, Bent Creek



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The President's Paddle

It is that time again to put my thoughts into a column for the newsletter. First of all I would like to say I missed the members who didn't make the summer float, which is about every one of you! Despite a few rain showers, the weather was perfect and there was plenty of water in the river thanks to those showers. There were several floats on different sections of the New in the area. Whitt River Bend Park was as peaceful as ever with the exception of a train passing now and then. Hope to see you in September at David's Creek in Bent Creek for the Labor Day float and meeting.

In other news Katherine Waller has volunteered to be our new treasurer. She is a member of the Scotts Creek Chapter and I thank her for volunteering. I also would like to thank Tim Henness for the job he has done as our treasurer and let him know the club appreciates the work he has done in the past.

Once again I hope to see everyone in September -- until then, stay cool.

~ John

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Minutes of the Float Fishermen of Virginia Business Meeting

May 26th, 2005

Glenn Maury Park, Buena Vista. The Memorial Day Weekend FFV business meeting was called to order Sunday morning.

Secretary's Report

The minutes from the December were in the February newsletter (*Winter/Spring 2005, No. 1*) and can be found on the website. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Tim reported: "We had some money, spent a little, and there is still a little left."

Newsletter Report

Bob informed us that he needs trip reports from various chapters to help fill up the newsletter and give us some more interesting things to read; and that the newsletter can be found on-line.

Membership Report

Don asked that everyone let him know if you are not receiving the newsletter so he can verify that he has the correct address.

Conservation Report

Bill Tanger reported that \$60,000 had been earmarked for the Witt River Bend Park for some "SST" (Sweet Smelling Toilets), a Primitive Trail, and Parking. On the Roanoke River they are using a civil engineer to help with an access ramp and on the Gauley River they are reopening a 100 year old road for public access. The James River at Balcony Falls is having a line of sight study done.

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Welcome New FFV Members



Roanoke Valley Chapter
Deb Hedrick, Hardy
Emily Mason, Ferrum

...meeting minutes continued.

Foundation Report

Chris announced that there were still several raffle tickets for the canoe available and that the winner would be drawn before the meeting was over. There was a motion approved to send certificates of appreciation to the individuals and groups who were nominated for the Randy Carter Award and did not receive it (Rick Roth, John Tippet, Friends of the Rappahannock, and FORVA). It was also agreed that we would announce the Randy Carter Award to other conservation groups and that the foundation would handle the mailings.

Old Business

The Creekers announced that they were selling raffle tickets for a \$100 gift certificate to the Appomattox River Co. and that they also had FFV hats for sale. It was also mentioned that the FFV brochure needs to be put into electronic format.

New Business

The first thing discussed under new business was the VIP float. We need contact with our legislatures so that they can be invited. Marge Van Demon, the committee chair, needs to be re-involved and updated. There was also talk of having a founders meeting. Also, the Roanoke chapter collectively nominated FORVA for the Randy Carter Award this year.

Floats:

- July 16th and 17th is our summer float at Witt River Bend Park off of 460, west of Ripplemead.
- The Labor Day float will be held at Bent Creek on the James River.
- The Slate River partners in Buckingham are having a float in July from Hardware to New Canton and the Club is invited.
- The Roanoke chapter is still offering raft trips on the New River during the year and the Gauley in September.



The meeting was adjourned just after Steve Sauder won a \$100 gift certificate to Appomattox River Co. in the Scotts Creek Chapter raffle, and Tom Coffey won yet “another” canoe in the FFV Foundation raffle!

~ Respectfully submitted

FFV SALUTES THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY



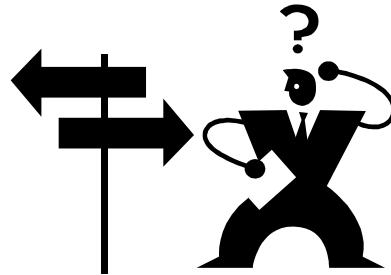
Marge and Pete Van Demon, representing the Float Fishermen of Virginia, presented Gary Heiser, Manager, State Forests, with a new set of flags for the Cumberland State Forest office. The U.S. flag was flown over the nation's capital.

The Cumberland State Forest has been the site of the Float Fishermen of Virginia's December meeting for nearly ten years, and members have volunteered several work weekends to do such things as develop a river access camping area, clean-up of trails and lake areas, erected a new sign at the entrance and work on the sporting clay range.

Attendees agree that the beauty of the location, the hospitality of forest employees, and the opportunity to "just get away" make this spot ideal for the winter meeting. After the last event, December of 2004, the club donated \$200 to the forest as a unrestricted gift to the Department of Forestry as a way to say thank you!

DIRECTIONS TO...

**THE LABOR DAY FLOAT & BUSINESS MEETING
JAMES RIVER @ DAVIDS CREEK, BENT CREEK VA /
SEPTEMBER 3-5**



From Lynchburg, points west: Take US 460 east to Appomattox. Take route 26 to route 60. On reaching 26, cross the road to get to route 605. Stay on 605 to campground; if you cross David's Creek turn around -- you've gone too far.

From Richmond: Take US 60 west. Turn right onto 605 before crossing the James River. Stay on 605 to campground; if you cross David's Creek turn around -- you've gone too far..

From any/all directions: ...once on 605, look for FFV on the left, and if you cross David's Creek, turn around --- you've gone too far.

Gauley Access Mess

The mess gets worse. Now, Appalachian Whitewater and Class VI (AW/VI), who own all of the major access points along river right, have decided that they will close all access to private boaters.

AW/VI wants the Park Service to buy their Woods Ferry access property, but have asked a price for it that is more than double the appraised value. The Park Service, by federal law, cannot pay more than the appraised value. So AW/VI wants to increase the value of their access by creating the biggest private boater crisis they can create.

Boaters respond:

A new group of boaters, Friends of the Gauley River (FOGR), has been created, and is working on solutions. FOGR arranged a meeting with Congressman Rahall on July 8, which included Passages to Adventure, FORVA (Friends of the Rivers of Va), FFV (Float Fishermen of Va), the NPS, the WV Wildwater Association and American Whitewater. The road has been kept open and maintained since 1983 by Passages and FFV. The FFV and FORVA have been working on reopening Woods Ferry Road since April of this year.

FOGR wants to address both short-term and long-term issues of Gauley access. A federal law mandates that before any other Gauley access is developed by the NPS, that a Woods Ferry private boater access be developed. This was a bill written by Rep. Rahall with input from AW/VI.

Public Access Plans:

FOGR is now raising funds and volunteers to reopen the public Woods Ferry Road, parts of which have been closed for about 100 years! We are making good progress but need volunteers to clear brush and move rocks. We estimate we will need a budget of \$10,000, and have raised \$700 so far.

All work will be done with hand tools to minimize environmental damage. When the work is completed, outfitter Benjy Simpson (Passages) will operate a boat shuttle in and out of the gorge. As was true at Mason's Branch, paddlers will have to walk in or out of the canyon themselves. A donation will offset the costs, with the surplus being used to maintain the road.

How to Help:

If you are interested in helping to resolve this matter, please let Bill Tanger know as soon as possible:

Email address: tanger@mediavisionva.com.

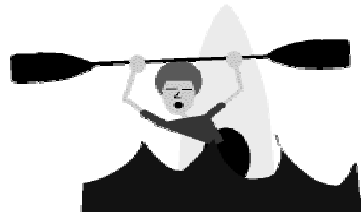
Home telephone: 540-366-2228.

If you can send a donation, make checks out to FORVA, earmarked to FOGR, and mailed to FORVA, PO Box 1750, Roanoke VA 24008. For a \$100 donation, FOGR will send you a letter to use as a free pass to use Woods Ferry Road without making any further contribution! (FORVA is a 501(c)3 non-profit.)

Our next work weekends are August 20 & 21, and then August 27 & 28. We will meet at Surf City on Milroy Grose Road at 9 am each morning. This is directly across from Wildwater Expeditions on Rt. 19.

FYI: Rep. Nick Rahall's aide on river issues is jim.zoia@house.mail.gov

[FOGR-bulletin-7-15-05.nfo]



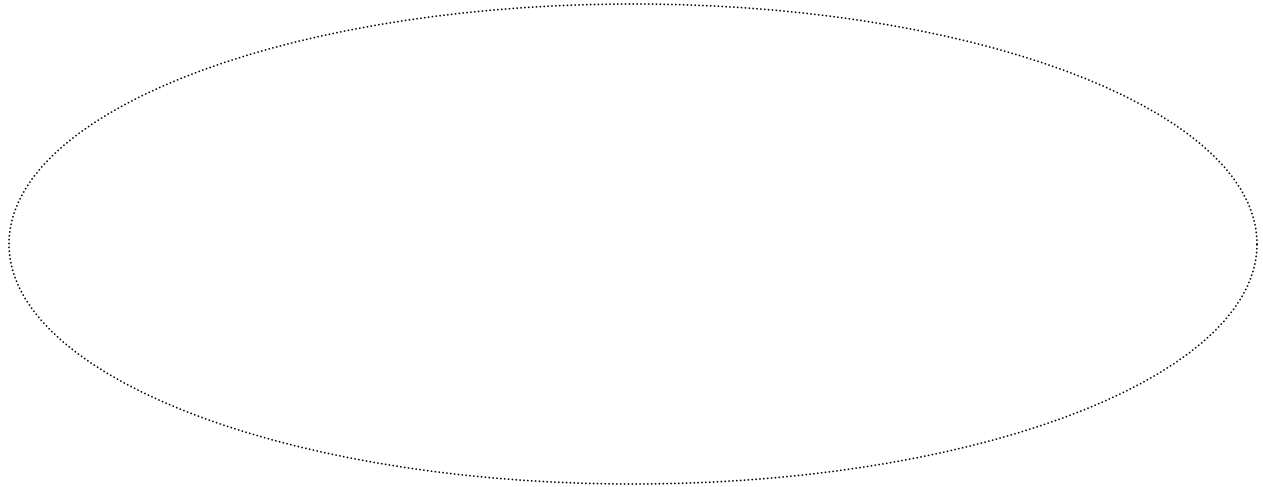
See also related article by Charles Walbridge at the AW website:
<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/archive/article/1369/>



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FFV CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 3-5

Labor Day Float & Business Meeting

James River at Davids Creek, Bent Creek

November (*submissions due the 5th*)

Fishin' Pole, Pack & Paddle

Fall/Winter issue 2005, No. 4

October 1

Dickel Bash

Contact Ginnie Peck, George Dickel Chapter

December 3-4

Winter Meeting...

Cumberland State Forest

NEXT ISSUE...

DIRECTIONS FOR...

THE DECEMBER GATHERING, PRANCE-OFF & BUSINESS MEETING,

CUMBERLAND STATE FOREST HEADQUARTERS

