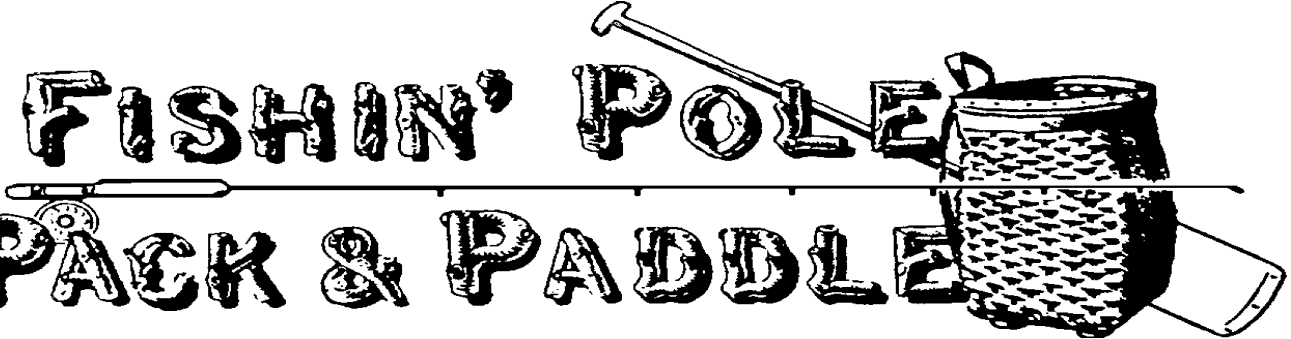


FISHIN' POLE PACK & PADDLE



Float Fishermen of Virginia

Fall/Winter 2005, No. 4

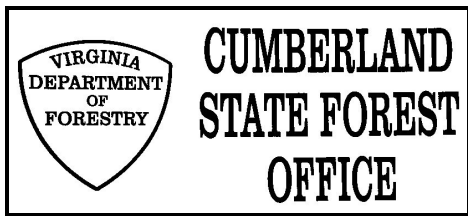
INSIDE THIS EDITION

Labor Day Meeting Minutes..... 2
 FFV Foundation Minutes..... 4
 Gauley Access Resolved.....5
 FFV Supports JSR20.....6
 GOA & the Chesapeake Bay8
 News Briefs.....9
 FFV Calendar of Events 2005.....10



*December Business Meeting
 December 3*

Cumberland State Forest Headquarters



~ Directions on page 3 ~

The President 's Paddle

It's that time of the year again. No, not Christmas. It's FFV winter meeting time. We will again be enjoying the hospitality of the State Department of Forestry at the Cumberland Forest headquarters. The meeting will be Saturday, December 3, 2005 at 1:00 pm.

This is our annual planning meeting where we plan the next year's activities and decide on meeting sites. If you have a favorite site you wish to nominate please be sure that site is available for the scheduled weekend. I would like to see the club go back to fixing group dinners so discuss this among your chapters and if you are willing to cook and please volunteer.

Also we will be deciding on the Randy Carter award. I have already been advised of one nominee. If there are any others you will be given the chance to make the presentation at the meeting.

Once again I would like to thank the Slate River Partners for inviting the club to use their property for the Labor Day weekend float. I think everyone enjoyed the site and we had a good turn out.

On another note Cris Leonard has submitted his resignation from the board of the FFV Foundation effective immediately. I would like to thank Cris for his efforts as President of the Foundation and his past work for FFV. Cris is a past President of FFV.

See you at the winter meeting and come prepared to volunteer.

~ John

**FLOAT FISHERMEN
OF VIRGINIA, INC.**

President

John VanLuik
2771 Summit Ridge Road
Roanoke, VA 24012
540-977-0678
president@floatfishermen.org

Vice Presidents

Lindsay Koenig
20176 Rockcastle Road
Ruther Glen, VA 22546-2238
804-449-6701
linnie@floatfishermen.org

Ginnie Peck

794 Farrar Bridge Lane
Shipman, VA 22971
804-263-8578
ginnie@floatfishermen.org

Wayne Storey

320A Washington Street
Portsmouth, VA 23704
757-434-6890

Richard Webster

2404 Burgence Lane
Petersburg, VA 23807-7419
804-775 6354
Red2404@aol.com

Secretary

Brian Vande Sande
1300 Southwick Blvd.
Midlothian, VA 23113
secretary@floatfishermen.org

Treasurer

Katherine Waller
P. O. Box 1895
Hayes, VA 23072-1895
804 673 2569
treasurer@floatfishermen.org

Conservation Chairman

Bill Tanger
P. O. Box 1750
Roanoke, VA 24008-1750
540-777-1020 (w)
540-366-2228 (h)
tanger@mediavisionva.com

Membership Chairman

Don Leeger
9 Lake Field Crossing
Hampton, VA 23666
757-865-2016 (H) 757-875-7043 (w)
Fax: 757-890-1685
membership@floatfishermen.org

Webmaster

Bob Born
2625 Confederate Ave.
Lynchburg, VA 24501
434-942-3407
webmaster@floatfishermen.org



Published by the Float Fishermen of Virginia, Inc., a non-profit corporation dedicated to the preservation of Virginia's free flowing streams. Dues are \$15 annually. Additions or changes to the newsletter mailing list should be sent to the Treasurer.

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: Email with attachments in Word or ASCII files, pictures in jpeg. Dates for submitting information for publication: 5th of February, May, August and November. Comments, criticism and complements are always welcome.

Bob Pillow / 540-864-5213 / editor@floatfishermen.org
Rt2 Box1129, New Castle, VA 24127

Minutes of the Float Fishermen of Virginia Business Meeting September 5th, 2005

Slate River, VA. The Labor Day Weekend FFV business meeting was called to order Sunday morning.

Secretary's Report

The minutes from the Memorial Day Meeting were approved as printed in the 2005#3 FPP&P with the following correction: There is a correction from the May 26th minutes. Marge is not the chairperson for the VIP float.

Treasurer's Report

Tim informed us that as of September 2nd 2005 we have a balance of \$3,150.91 in our account.

Newsletter Report

Bob reminded us once again that he needs photos and articles to help fill the newsletter.

Membership Report

Don let us know that we have approximately 240 members on the books and that the membership is holding fairly steady.

Conservation Report

Bill Tanger informed us that if anyone was interested in being kept abreast of conservation issues they might wish to be added to his e-mail list. The following topics were discussed:

- There are several dam relicensing projects underway currently including Smith Mountain Lake, Claytor Lake, and Cushaw Dam on the James.

Minutes, continued on page 3...

Minutes, continued from page 2...

- The water quality draft on standards is now available.
- The Fayette County Commission has just allowed 2,200 homes to be built on the New River Gorge.
- A design for a set of stairs is needed for the takeout on the Roanoke River
- VDOT is doing a line of sight study to help set the speed limit on the Cushaw.
- On the Gauley they have reopened a 140 year old road for river access for the Gauley season.
- Bill also asked for a liaison in Richmond to help with some of these issues.
- There was a motion passed to add our name to a letter for support on Mercury pollution. {see text of letter and related article in this issue }

Foundation Report

Chris Leonard had no report but there will be a meeting directly after the club meeting. {see Foundation minutes in this issue }

Old Business

There was a discussion about who is responsible for giving information out to interested members. The membership chair will direct inquiries to the local chapter presidents.

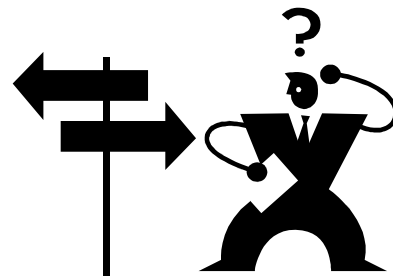
New Business

If anyone has digital pictures please send them to Linda Van Luik for the new brochure. A motion was passed to cover the expenses of the Slate River Partners in their preparation of the Labor Day weekend.

There was a motion to adjourn with a reminder of the annual business meeting the first weekend in December at Cumberland State Forest.

Directions to...

**The Winter Meeting
Cumberland State Forest Headquarters/
December 3**



From Richmond: Take route 60 west to Cumberland; 2 miles west of downtown Cumberland, turn right on Route 628. Proceed approximately 3 miles to stop sign. Go straight through gate to State Forest building

From Lexington: Take route 60 east to Cumberland; 2 miles west of downtown Cumberland, turn left on Route 628. Proceed approximately 3 miles to stop sign. Go straight through gate to State Forest building.

FFV Foundation Report

Treasurers Report:

Jim Garner distributed the Treasurers report. A loss of fifty cents exists and he will double check to correct this figure. Bill Tanger requested a more detailed summary stating funds (profits) generated by the canoe raffle.

Business:

Cris Leonard mentioned that the club has asked the foundation to circulate an announcement regarding the R.C. Memorial Award for awareness and to promote nominations, statewide, for this award. Jim motioned for the foundation to handle this request, Rick Mattox seconded this motion. Bill Tanger said he would submit (via email) a list of some conservation groups to Cris. The group favored internet solicitation and a mailing (postal service) to promote the award and get word out. Motion passed unanimously.

John Van Luik's challenge to the Foundation was discussed. John wishes to see the Foundation embark on a conservation related project of their own. The recent survey of club members was referenced and their key interest was in seeing the club receive free, donated, properties. The availability of these is declining and more opportunities exist in the east via wetlands mitigation.

Our keg party image was discussed. Our social (imbibing) tendencies may hinder our consideration and other productive, reputable groups will probably be more likely to receive the donation of such properties. Bill stated that access is a pressing

issue and we should find out where this is needed most. With access points disappearing we should consider aligning with land owners – estates, realtors, developers – to acquire donated land (“conservation easements”) for access. Juanita Callis implied a new brochure could boast productivity and downplay our party focus. Jim suggested considering a float for outdoors writers across the state. A river trip and not a “reception”(party) should be the focus of this. Bill said that new rules regarding drinking and conduct during VIP-like events may help police our own. Cris suggested working with other groups (funding their outreach programs) to aid their educational and youth activities as a public relations tool to boost the FFV. Supporting “worthy causes” helps with image enhancement.

Bill Tanger motioned to build an access needs list, addressing priorities, and a survey to go with it. Rick seconded this motion. Considerations may include buy, lease, etcetera. Focus on access – vs – conservation as a Foundation function prompted some disagreement. Where shall such a survey start? Rick, Bill, Jim and Bob will draft the survey. Motion passed with one abstention.

Bob Peck will talk with Cameron C. about lower Rockfish access.

Elections:

Bob Peck was appointed Acting Secretary for a period of time. Jim Garner will continue as Treasurer. Cris stepped down as President. Bill Tanger agreed to accept the President's office. Jim motioned support of this new slate, seconded by Bob Peck, motion passed with one abstention.

Motion to adjourn passed.



Gauley Access Resolved (again, for now....)

The last edition of FPP&P included an article from the FOGR bulletin dated 7-15-05 regarding access to the Gauley, with an apparent resolution, albeit a temporary one.

Developments continue, and the latest bulletin from FOGR indicates...

How did we do?

Friends of the Gauley River has opened the first public access on the Gauley below the dam. That action has precipitated some reactions, including AW/VI's temporary reopening of Mason's Branch and Bucklick for the 2005 season, although 2006 is an unknown.

In addition, Congressman Rahall's office has agreed that by opening Woods Ferry Road we have satisfied the federal law that restricted the NPS to first open access at Woods Ferry river right which prohibited the NPS from looking at any other Gauley access. Now the NPS can look anywhere for Gauley access.

As a result of these actions FOGR is now looking for additional access opportunities. This kind of an effort calls for some confidentiality as we will be talking to property owners about purchasing land for parking or access. We may want to form a small FOGR lands committee to work on this. If interested, please let me know.

The Two Acre Plot:

Sounds like a murder mystery... FOGR leased two acres from a private owner to complete our newly reopened road access. That lease is through 2006. Between now and 2007 we want to see the NPS buy these two acres, and the owners are willing to sell at this point.

While the NPS was given funding for Gauley access in August, it was taken away due to Katrina. If funds continue to be a problem, FOGR will try to assist the NPS by raising money for the land survey, appraisal and land purchase if necessary.

Finances:

We are getting together a list of all who donated to FOGR, including those who donated through the WVRC. Turner Sharp is working on the WVRC list. Once we get it all together we will publish a final report. The WV Tourism Office should be sending money soon to reimburse FORVA for the stone it bought.

Also we have some funds dedicated to helping purchase any needed property. These come from The Bob Opachko Memorial Fund and from The Charles Walker Memorial Fund. These funds amount to about \$7,000 total, to date.

Continuing Efforts:

Our project involved over 30 road warriors from 13 states, plus over 75 contributors from over 20 states. At a brief GauleyFest meeting some of us talked about forming a FOGR board, but we did not do much formally. If anyone wants to volunteer to pursue this, just let me know.

I will try to keep everyone up to date as things unfold. We are contemplating a meeting with the NPS perhaps in December. As you may know, the Gauley Management Plan is almost ready for public notice, so that will be coming up.

Contact me as always at tanger@mediavisionva.com or Home 540-366-2228 or Work 540-777-1020 or at FORVA, PO Box 1750, Roanoke VA 24008.

And, of course, it is mandatory for each and every one of you to contact me if you are in Roanoke so we can hoist a few and you can visit the FORVA "office".

[Fogr-bulletin-shuttle-11-11-05]



FFV Signs on to Letter in Support Of Senate Joint Resolution 20

At the Labor Day Business meeting Bill Tanger, Conservation Chair, asked FFV to sign on to a letter urging Senators to support Senate Joint Resolution 20, opposing new Bush administration rules concerning mercury emissions from power plants. After a brief discussion the motion was voted on by the membership and passed unanimously. The text of the letter appears below.

[Dear Senator: ~]

We urge you to protect women and children from toxic mercury by supporting a joint resolution, sponsored by Senators Patrick Leahy and Susan Collins under the Congressional Review Act (S. J. Res. 20), to reject the Bush administration's recent, highly flawed mercury rules. In particular, the resolution would disapprove a rule that removes power plants from the sources required by law to install strict controls to reduce their mercury pollution.

Mercury is a potent neurotoxin that can affect the brain, heart, and immune system.

Developing fetuses and children are especially at risk; even low-level exposure to mercury can cause learning disabilities, developmental delays, lowered IQ, and problems with attention and memory. EPA scientists estimate that one in six women has enough mercury in her body to put her child at risk should she become pregnant. Mounting evidence also indicates that mercury increases the risk of heart attacks in adult men.

Mercury pollution is so pervasive that 44 states have posted fish consumption advisories due to mercury contamination. In half of these states, the advisories cover every lake and/or river in the state.

Power plants are the largest U.S. source of mercury emissions. Yet, rather than enforce the Clean Air Act, which requires power plants to reduce their mercury pollution by 90 percent by 2008, the Bush administration has finalized new rules that delay even modest mercury reductions from power plants until after 2026.

The Leahy-Collins resolution would reject the Bush administration's mercury rules and send EPA back to the drawing board to write a rule that complies with the law and protects public health. We strongly urge you to protect Americans from mercury pollution by supporting the Leahy-Collins resolution.

[Sincerely, ~]

Letter, continued on page 7...

Letter, continued from page 6...

While FFV signed on in support of the resolution, others voiced their opposition. Among them, the Coalition for Affordable and Reliable Energy (CARE). CARE's web site asked readers to write their senators and urge them to vote down the Leahy-Collins "effort to sidetrack the clean air mercury rule." [see http://ga4.org/careactive/notice-description.tcl?newsletter_id=3485811]

Excerpts from CARE supplied text for a letter in opposition to the resolution follows:

... This resolution would override the new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR)...an effective cap-and-trade system for reducing mercury emissions from power plants. SJ Res 20 is intended to instead force a plant-by-plant approach requiring the use of "maximum achievable control technology"(MACT).

EPA has spent almost a decade developing and now is in the process of implementing CAMR. It represents the first time that mercury emissions from U.S. power plants have been regulated and is expected to reduce emissions from coal-fired power plants by 70 percent.

If command-and-control MACT requirements are imposed, ...the cost to consumers and our economy would be substantial. According to the Energy Information Administration, electric utilities could incur compliance costs of up to \$358 billion, compared to the \$2 billion cost of the EPA's cap-and-trade rule. Furthermore, the mercury MACT approach, compared to CAMR, would result in an additional U.S. mercury deposition reduction of only two percent.

This resolution would interrupt the development of promising technologies, force significant fuel switching to costly and scarce natural gas, increase electricity costs by 20 percent and further threaten U.S. chemical and manufacturing jobs. Substantially higher electricity costs would be passed onto customers, including fixed-income and senior citizens, who are already suffering from skyrocketing energy and fuel costs.

Full text of SJ20:

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency on March 15, 2005, relating to the removal of coal- and oil-fired electric generating units as a category from the list of major sources of hazardous air pollutants to be controlled under section 112 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) (70 Fed. Reg. 15994 (March 29, 2005)), and such rule shall have no force or effect."

Results of the vote: On September 13, the resolution was defeated on a vote of 51 to 47, more or less along party lines. Not surprisingly both Virginia Senators Warner and Allen voted against the resolution.

The effect of the resolution's failure: Power plants have an additional 10-20 years to reduce mercury pollution, according to the U.S. Public Interest Research Group. [see <http://uspirg.org/uspirg.asp?id2=19116>]

Why should this be of interest to FFV? According to the American Geological Institute, Government Affairs Program...

"As the number of states with fish advisories continues to climb, an improved understanding of the biogeochemical cycle of mercury through atmospheric, aquatic, and biological systems becomes ever more critical in crafting policy affecting water and air quality. Mercury is naturally released into the biosphere through volcanoes, geothermal springs, geologic deposits, and oceans. Anthropogenic sources, which include waste incinerators, wastewater discharges, mining, and power plants (most significantly coal-fired power plants), have nearly doubled the natural amount of atmospheric mercury since the beginning of the industrial age." [Italic emphasis added. See <http://www.agiweb.org/gap/legis109/mercury.html>]

"Fruitless striving breeds less despair than inaction."
~ Mason Cooley

GAO Report on the Chesapeake Bay Program (the bad news)

In October the Government Accounting Office released a document titled “The Chesapeake Bay Program: Improved Strategies Are Needed to Better Assess, Report, and Manage Restoration Progress.” The report was highly critical of the EPA in particular, and the federal government in general for a lack of support. Summarizing the bay’s problems, the report states:

“Over time, the bay’s ecosystem has deteriorated. The bay’s “dead zones”— where too little oxygen is available to support fish and shellfish—have increased, and many species of fish and shellfish have experienced major declines in population. The deterioration has occurred primarily because of excess amounts of nutrients entering the bay, which damage species and plant populations; the single largest source of these pollutants is agricultural runoff.... In addition, population growth and development have further stressed the ecosystem. For example, in the past decade, the amount of land in the watershed covered by impervious surfaces—surfaces through which water cannot flow—increased by about 41 percent, increasing the amount of polluted runoff that enters into streams and rivers and eventually runs into the bay.”

The report makes the following recommendation “to improve the Bay Program’s ability to assess, report, and manage the restoration effort...”

“...we are recommending that the Administrator of EPA instruct the Chesapeake Bay Program Office to (1) complete its efforts to develop and implement an integrated assessment approach; (2) revise its reporting approach; and (3) work with Bay Program partners to develop a comprehensive, coordinated implementation strategy that takes into account available resources. In commenting on our report, the signatories to the Bay Program generally agreed with our recommendations.”

Meanwhile, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s annual report card gives the bay a grade of D. The actual 2005 State of the Bay score of 27 has held steady for three years, suggesting a lack of sufficient progress. According to the CBF “This is clear evidence that, despite past cleanup progress, the Bay has flat-lined and remains in serious trouble. (emphasis theirs).

The Richmond Times-Dispatch recently reported that the Bay’s dead zone is now the biggest ever recorded in 20 years of monitoring (RTD, October 4, 2005). Citing both the GAO and CBF reports, a recent article in the Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star stated:

“Status quo, whether it's the bay's condition or the commitment of funds, is not satisfactory. A bay that can no longer support marine life will not support the industry and tourism that injects \$31 billion a year into the region's economy. Funding on a scale that only the federal government can provide is a must if our "national treasure" will ever be cleaned up.”

- The full GAO report is available at: [<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d0696.pdf>]
- The full CBF report is available at [<http://www.cbf.org/site/DocServer/sotb2005lores.pdf?docID=4523>]
- The Free Lance-Star report (“Another bad grade” November 21, 2005) can be found at:
- <http://fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2005/112005/11212005/146937>

News Briefs (some good news)

Protection for Richmond's James River Park

An editorial in the October 21st Richmond Times-Dispatch titled "Richmond's Treasure" noted "Richmond is blessed, as few cities are, to have a river running through it. Rushing waters speed over rocks and long the James' banks." However, the most significant, and perhaps surprising feature of Richmond's Treasure is that the river remains relatively unspoiled. Recent actions by Richmond City Council are intended to insure that the river remains in a relatively natural state by placing the James River Park under a conservation easement. Although Council passed a measure forbidding development of the park four years ago, the editorial noted that this could be rescinded by a future City Council, while a conservation easement could not.

The resolution reads:

Resolution No. 2005-R210 - To direct the City Attorney to prepare the necessary documents to place James River Park under the protection of a conservation easement as state law defines that term and to present such documents to the Council as soon as possible after receipt of the requisite legal description and drawings depicting the metes and bounds of James River Park.

Kudos to the City for having the foresight to create JRP in the first place, and kudos again for taking action required to preserve it for future generations.

U.S. National Whitewater Center set to open in Spring 2006

Progress continues on construction of the U.S. National Whitewater Center in Charlotte North Carolina.

The Center promises to be "...the world's most unique outdoor recreation and environmental learning experience.... [Providing] the opportunity to experience over 300 acres of woodlands along the Catawba River, only 10 minutes from center-city Charlotte. Olympic-caliber athletes, weekend warriors and casual observers will be able to share this world-class sports and training center."

The USNWC is endorsed by the U.S. Olympic Committee and will serve as the home of USA Canoe and Kayak (USACK), the governing body for the sport. Once completed the center will host World Cup competitions and Olympic Trails.

For photos, designs, and descriptions of this distinctive facility (said to be inspired by the 2000 Olympic Whitewater Stadium built in Pernith) go to their website at:

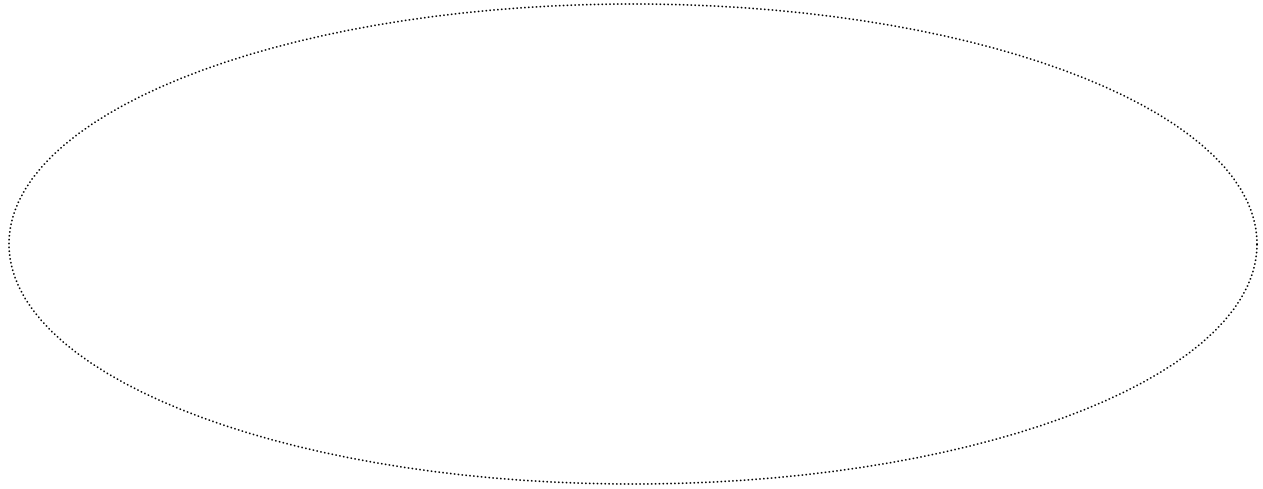
<http://www.usnwc.org/index.html>



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

<http://www.floatfishermen.org>

info@floatfishermen.org



FFV Calendar of Events

December 3-4

Winter Meeting...
Cumberland State Forest

February (*submissions due the 5th*)

Fishin' Pole, Pack & Paddle
Fall/Winter issue 2006, No. 1

W e l c o m e N e w F F V M e m b e r s
(You know who you are...)



NEXT ISSUE, *News from Cumberland*, to include ~

- *Compilation of Minutes from the Business Meeting*
- *Coming State Float Schedule for 2006*

