

Friends of the Appomattox River
Annual Report



2007

***The mission of FAR is to promote a healthy Appomattox River Watershed.
We will fulfill this mission by:***

- * Promoting responsible recreation and greater river access***
- * Connecting people with outdoor experiences***
- * Raising community awareness through educational programs***
- * Stimulating public and private partnerships***
- * Advocating river conservation in all FAR activities***

Together, we accomplished a great deal in 2007.

Implemented the Bylaws adopted August 24, 2006:

We started off the year with a February meeting dedicated largely to reviewing and staffing five standing committees. Most of our membership volunteered with several folks signing up for two or more committees. Implementation of the committee system has increased member participation in planning and conducting events and has contributed greatly to our 2007 achievements.

Updated the club brochure:

Our Community Outreach Committee updated our club brochure. Existing brochures describing various facets of our group were consolidated into a new professionally printed, color document that advertises and describes the club. The new brochures are displayed at the Prince Edward County Visitor Center, Appomattox River Co., and the Prince Edward County Library.

Created and printed a pamphlet on the Farmville Blueway:

Our Community Outreach Committee created a new pamphlet to describe the blueway. Existing handouts and maps on the blueway were consolidated into a three page pamphlet that highlights the natural and human history of the blueway.

Created and printed a club T-shirt:

Our Community Outreach Committee headed up this fun but challenging project. Our club logo (our brand) is now prominently displayed for all to see whenever we proudly wear the club T-shirt. Let's wear it whenever we get the chance.

Conducted three river and lake clean-up projects:

Our Stewardship and Special Projects Committees worked hard to plan and execute three successful clean up projects. Fourteen persons participated in the Spring Clean-up gathering 100 pounds of trash. Seven members of the Navy EOD Team worked cooperatively with Prince Edward County, the Town of Farmville, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and VA Dept. of Transportation to clean up a very large logjam on the upper Appomattox at Featherfin Farm Wildlife Management Area. Nineteen persons participated in the Fall Clean-up which gathered 200 pounds of trash. Members of the stewardship Committee removed several logjams along the Farmville Blueway and improved the passage through the old mill dam. In addition, the Stewardship Committee also created an event hazard training document, designated a club safety officer and added to the cache of tools available for stewardship activities.

Provided field trips for club members:

Our Adventure Committee led us on four field trips this year. Trips were conducted on the Appomattox River, James River, Wilcks Lake and Sandy River Reservoir. Forty-seven boaters and thirty-one boats participated on these trips.

Provided opportunities for socializing with club members:

Our Social Committee entertained us with four social events. Club members and guests were able to enjoy a Member Appreciation Pot-luck Dinner, a picnic supper after our first field trip of the year, a Thank You Dinner for the Navy EOD Team, and a Christmas Party at Mel's Mill, the restored, historic mill building that utilized the stone crib dam on the downtown section of river.

Participated in the Greater Farmville Greenway Alliance meetings:

Our Community Outreach Committee led us as we participated in this historic opportunity for the community to voice their interest in improving pedestrian and recreational access to points of interest in Farmville and Prince Edward County.

Participated in the Appomattox River Company Demo Day:

Our Community Outreach Committee joined four other river related organizations that set up booths at what is billed as the largest canoe and kayak demo day on the east coast. Members that volunteered to man the booth also had the opportunity to try out the large variety of water craft on display. Over 500 water enthusiasts are believed to have attended this event.

Supported greater access to Virginia's rivers:

Our Executive Committee sent letters to CSX Corporation in support of the Cushaw Project - an initiative to improve public access to the Balcony Falls section of the James River. Discussions were also held with Gerry Spates, Farmville Town Manager, on ways to improve public access to the Appomattox River.

Thanks to all of our club members, our associate organizations and sponsors who worked together to make this another successful year for the Friends.