

Friends of the Appomattox River



2009 Annual Report

The mission of the Friends of the Appomattox River is to preserve the natural and cultural resources of the Appomattox River watershed by promoting stewardship, education, responsible recreation and improved river access.

Accomplishments

Our organization is evolving. Our members and directors are evolving. Our members are getting used to a Board of Directors. Some are enjoying the fact that the Board is now conducting most of the business of the organization. Some members are getting used to their roles as Directors! Together, we accomplished a great deal in 2009. Besides submitting our first Tax Return to the IRS and our first Annual Report to the State Corporation Commission, we:

Obtained General Liability Insurance:

After much research, discussion and debate, in this most interesting and stimulating subject, the Board settled on a two-million dollar aggregate General Liability Policy with the Auto-Owners Insurance Co. Harwood and Son Insurance was a tremendous help with this project. In the course of several meetings with them we found out Scott, Jr. and Kim Harwood liked to kayak. With some gentle arm-twisting we convinced them to join the Friends. These folks really love insurance so you have to wonder if they joined the group to get outdoors or to continue to talk insurance with us!

Developed a Policy and Procedures and a new Activity Sign-In Sheet:

As our attorney Harlan Horton once said, formality is the trade-off for legal protection for the membership. Though they may be cumbersome and a even a “drag” to deal with, adherence to the Policy and Procedures and use of the Activity Sign-in Sheet will help to ensure that members of the organization, and its guests, enjoy themselves and our natural resources in a safe manner. And as long as we are following these guidelines, if something does go wrong, the organization will protect us.

Maintained our rivers and lakes:

Our Stewardship Committee conducted two successful clean up projects. Our annual Spring Spruce Up event was an April 25 shoreline clean-up that was done in conjunction with the Stewardship Virginia program. The Fall River Renaissance clean-up was conducted on October 10 in conjunction with Clean Virginia Waterways

and the International Coastal Clean-up event. The river clean-up events removed over 500 pounds of trash from Wilcks Lake, Buffalo Creek, the Appomattox River, Briery Creek Reservoir and Sandy River Reservoir. The fall clean-up was reported in the *Farmville Herald*. The Special Projects Committee assisted the Navy Explosives Ordinance Disposal Team with training conducted during the week of September 7. The Navy EOD Team worked cooperatively with Prince Edward County, Appomattox County and a local contractor (WCW Earthworks) to inspect an abandoned stone quarry and remove a concrete bridge in the upper Appomattox River.

Promoted stewardship and conservation:

Our Community Outreach Committee set up an information booth at the June 13 Appomattox River Company Demo Day. Members that volunteered to man the booth also had the opportunity to try out a large variety of watercraft on display. Hundreds of water enthusiasts attend this annual event.

Provided field trips for club members:

Our Field Trip Committee led us on several big adventures. We started off the paddling season with a June 27 float on the Farmville Blueway. On July 11 we joined several hundred paddling enthusiasts from around the State in the James River Association's James River Run-off Run-down. This first ever event was conducted with the goal of paddling the entire 340 miles of the James River in a single day! Our FAR paddlers covered a 10½ mile stretch of the James from New Canton to Columbia. Those that participated in this fundraiser donated \$100 to the JRA. We wrapped up the paddling season with an October 2 moonlight paddle on the Sandy River Reservoir. The moonlight paddle was reported in the *Farmville Herald*.

Provided opportunities for socializing with club members:

Our Social Committee organized two social events. Club members and guests were able to enjoy an August 28 End-of-Summer Barbeque at Mel's Mill and a December 4 Christmas Party at the Breen's. In addition, they provided refreshments and pulled clean-up duties at many of our meetings.

Conducted a fundraiser:

Our Special Projects Committee led us in the assembly of Bluebird Houses. Our want-to-be carpenters managed to construct twenty-two birdhouses without a splinter or mashed finger in the group. Robin Buckalew used her powers of persuasion to sell the houses and raised over \$100 for the club. A special thanks to John Buschmann for donating the pre-cut birdhouse kits.

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

Membership Report

Individuals, families, businesses and organizations, who are in agreement with its mission and willing to subscribe to the Bylaws and Policies of the Friends of the Appomattox River, are eligible for membership upon payment of dues. To remain a member in good standing, and have the right to vote at meetings or enjoy membership privileges, membership fees must be current. The 2009 dues were as follows:

Individuals	\$20
Families	\$25
Organizations/Businesses	\$30
Lifetime	\$500

In addition, an Event Membership was created to allow non-members to sign up and participate in FAR events for an introductory membership fee of \$5. Event members are encouraged to remain active with the organization and to renew their membership at the standard membership rates.

As of December 31, 2009, there were 61 members in the organization. During 2009, 17 new members joined and 5 allowed their membership to lapse.

The December 31, 2009 Membership Roster was as follows:

Allard, Patricia	Parisi, Andy
Atkinson, Robert and Kelly Mezc (W.C. Newman)	Phillips, Charles
Boyer, Ruth and Cal	Polce, Deborah Lazio and Dave
Breen, Pat and Betty Robb	Powers, Bill and Martha
Britton, Bill	Schuler, Pamela (J.E.B.'s Friends...)
Buckalew, Robin	Sercombe, Dennis and Sharon
Buschmann, John	Sedgwick, Ellery and Robin
Calhoun, Lonnie and Marian	Shear, Bill and Noelle Prince
Conner, David and Matthew (son)	Smith, Mel and Linda (Mel Smith & Associates)
Daves-Johnson, Alecia and Gordon	Walker, Thomas
Davis, Jim and Joyce	Whiley, Jordan and Elizabeth
Dorrill, William and Martha	Willcox, David Lewis and Sandy
Fehrer, Damien and Deanna	Woodruff, Lee and Beth
Gilfillan, Doug and Sally	York, Amy Judge and Ray
Green, Chuck and Faye	
Green, Charlotte	
Hamlet, Gwen D.	
Harwood, Scott and Kimberly	
Harlan Horton	
Jamieson, John & Judith	
Martindale, Bonnie	
McCutchen, Joe & Elizabeth	
Moseley, Walton and Jessica	

Treasurer's Report

All activities of the Friends of the Appomattox River (FAR) are self-supporting. All funds received by FAR are deposited to the account of FAR and are disbursed by the Treasurer of FAR as authorized by the Board of Directors. The Friends of the Appomattox River currently has a bank account with Branch Bank and Trust Co. Members and the Board of Directors are not compensated for their services or duties, but may be reimbursed under an accountable reimbursement plan for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with Corporation business. The organization's fiscal year is January 1 to December 31. Finances for the 2009 fiscal year were as follows:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Memorial Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 2016.47	\$ 125.00	\$ 2141.47
<u>Gross Receipts</u>	\$ 1539.50	\$ 25.00	\$ 1564.50
Dues	\$ 1015.00	\$ 0.00	
Donations	\$ 375.00	\$ 25.00	
Fundraising	\$ 149.50	\$ 0.00	
<u>Gross Expenditures</u>	\$ 423.27	\$ 0.00	\$ 423.27
Activities	\$ 93.87	\$ 0.00	
Fees / Operating	\$ 229.40	\$ 0.00	
Donations	\$ 100.00	\$ 0.00	
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 3132.70	\$ 150.00	<u>\$ 3282.70</u>

Damien C. Fehrer, Chair

Alecia Daves-Johnson, Treasurer

Board of Directors and Officers

The Friends of the Appomattox River is an independent, not-for profit corporation run by volunteers. The corporation is governed by a Board of Directors under the authority of its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The Board is elected by the organization's membership. Officers are elected by the Board. Four to eight directors are required to serve staggered terms of two years. Directors for 2009 were:

Damien Fehrer	President
Elizabeth McCutchen	Vice-President
Noelle Prince Shear	Secretary
Alecia Daves-Johnson	Treasurer
Betty Robb Breen	Membership Officer
Robin Buckalew	Communications Coord.
Charles Phillips	At-large Director
Robert Atkinson	At-large Director

Goals for 2010

The following items will be presented to the 2010 Board of Directors for their consideration, adoption and implementation. Additional goals may be taken on at their discretion.

Organization:

- Update the organization's website
- Update the organization's brochure
- Develop a New Membership packet

Mission - Stewardship, Education, Recreation:

- Maintain our adopted section of the Appomattox and the Blueway
- Complete development of the Farmville Blueway
- Provide programs of interest to the membership and community
- Improve the community's appreciation of our water resources
- Connect with other community organizations with similar goals and interests
- Provide opportunities to explore the river and its tributaries
- Provide opportunities to socialize and celebrate special events