

# Friends of the Appomattox River



## 2010 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

A year can go by pretty quickly, especially when you stay as busy as we have. It will take you a lot less time to read through these accomplishments than the time it took to achieve them. We worked hard this year but we had a lot of fun and enjoyed that rewarding feeling of accomplishment. Together we:

#### Maintained our rivers and lakes:

Under the capable leadership of Lee Woodruff and Pat Breen, our Stewardship Committee conducted two successful clean up projects. Our annual Spring Spruce Up event was held on April 10<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Stewardship Virginia program. The Fall River Renaissance clean-up was conducted on October 2<sup>nd</sup> in conjunction with Clean Virginia Waterways and the International Coastal Clean-up. Together, these clean-up events removed over 400 pounds of trash from Wilcks Lake, Buffalo Creek, the Appomattox River, Briery Creek Reservoir and Sandy River Reservoir. Students from Longwood University and Hampden-Sydney College assisted with both events. Both were advertised and reported in the Farmville Herald. Thanks Lee and Pat.

In early September, the Special Projects Committee assisted the U.S.Navy Explosives Ordinance Disposal Team with debris removal from FAR's adopted section of the Appomattox River. Eighteen EOD specialists (rotating personnel) worked on this project. This was the first year the Navy EOD Team successfully performed a remote training operation, hiking one-third of a mile upstream from the Town of Farmville Water Treatment Plant intake behind the INS facility. In one day they were able to "completely obliterate" a tangled mass of logs that had grown into a huge obstruction over a number of years. In addition, the Team removed a large obstruction behind the Cralle property. Special thanks go out to Alecia Daves-Johnson and Charles Phillips for making arrangements to host the Team, Mel Smith for providing them with lodging, the YMCA for allowing the Team to shower at their facility, Admiral and Mrs. Leonard Picotte for hosting them one night for dinner and all the local stores and restaurants that provided them with meals and food supplies. Together, those named above and ARAMARK,

Arby's, Burger King, Charley's Waterfront Café, Domino's Pizza, KFC, Kroger, Lowes, McDonalds, Mulligan's Sports Grille, Pizza Hut, Subway, Wal-Mart and Wendy's provided over \$2000 in support for this group and their work.

Promoted stewardship and conservation:

Our Community Outreach Committee organized and set up a FAR information booth at the May 1<sup>st</sup> Heart of Virginia Festival. The booth attracted a lot of interest from the local community and provided a successful fundraiser. We handed out 30 brochures, a couple of dozen Blueway flyers and a dozen or so membership forms. Sales of Bluebird Houses and T-shirts generated some much needed funds.

In May the Board decided that FAR should join the Chesapeake Bay Coalition and its "Choose Clean Water" campaign. The focus of this campaign is to clean up tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay, a goal that FAR supports. In July the Board agreed to join the Public Access Coalition headed up by the Friends of the Rivers of Virginia (FORVA). FORVA has been working hard to increase the public's access to Virginia's rivers.

The Program Committee invited a couple of speakers to address members and guests. On March 26, Lynn Crump, of DCR, made a presentation on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Scenic Rivers Program and explained how FAR could work with the Town of Farmville and County governments to nominate a portion of the Appomattox River for designation into this program. On October 22, Katie Register provided an informative program on the work of Clean Virginia Waterways (CVW). Special thanks to Elizabeth McCutchen, Noelle Prince Shear and Damien Fehrer for organizing these events.

Started work to promote the Farmville Blueway:

The Special Projects Committee, under Alecia Daves-Johnson's leadership, is heading up a project to complete development of, and promote, the Farmville Blueway. They have developed a project outline that identifies the work that needs to be done to complete this project. The Committee has contacted the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the Army Corps of Engineers to determine permit requirements, reviewed tax maps to identify adjacent landowners, identified educational materials for use in kiosks and determined the price of kiosks and other materials. They are currently seeking grant sources to help underwrite the cost of the project. Thanks Alecia.

Started work to update FAR's website and brochure:

After contacting a couple of local web consultants the Board decided to use the skills of one of our own members to update the website. Charles Phillips has surprised and impressed us with his talent and ability in this area. Our new website is listed under the domain name of FAR-VA.org. If you haven't already done so, please take a minute to check it out. To assist Charles with this project, and provide assistance with promotion of the Farmville Blueway, the Board hired an intern - Allison Dobson, a Longwood University senior pursuing a major in Organizational Communication and Public Relations. This is an unpaid position, though Allison will receive academic credit and excellent experience from this work. Alecia Daves-Johnson worked with Bill Stuart and others at Longwood to secure Allison's assistance with these projects. Allison is currently working with FAR to update our brochure. Thanks to all.

Provided field trips for club members:

A few brave souls started off the year with a very cold, but beautiful, New Year's Day walk at the Featherfin Farm WMA. We started off the paddling season with a May 15 float on the Farmville Blueway that introduced members and guests to the beauty and tranquility of this waterway that winds through town. On June 5 our members enjoyed a paddle down the upper Appomattox River from Rt. 609 to Rt. 608. On September 18 we relaxed with a moonlight paddle on Sandy River Reservoir. The evening was beautiful, and those who participated had a lovely outing. Thanks to Jim Davis and Damien Fehrer for organizing these events.

Provided opportunities for socializing with club members:

Our Social Committee can always be counted on to organize and conduct enjoyable social events. Club members and guests were able to enjoy a coffee and dessert social at our Annual Meeting, pizza and sodas at our March 26 program, a covered dish dinner in April, an End-of-Summer party on August 27, and a Christmas Party on December 3. Special thanks to Beth Woodruff, Betty Robb Breen, Judy Jamieson, and Martha Powers. Thanks to Mel Smith for use of the Mill Building event room.

Conducted a fundraiser:

Robin Buckalew used her creative talents to turn a \$300 donation from John Buschmann into an educational exercise, a way to promote interest in FAR and a donation to FAR of nearly \$400. How did she do it? She worked with the PEC Vocation Educational Students and their instructor to make a couple of dozen Blue Bird houses out of a stack of cedar lumber. The bird houses were sold at the Heart of Virginia Festival. Not only was this a great fund-raiser, but it also attracted a lot of non-paddlers to our booth. Thanks Robin and John for your contribution to the Friends.

Improved the efficiency of our organization:

The Board approved several changes to the bylaws that should make the organization function more efficiently. A Program Committee was added. That committee and the existing five were made permanent standing committees. Several changes were made to the functions of the Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Officers. March 31 was set as the due date for annual membership dues. The Board also approved a proposal from the membership to increase the number of directors to nine and extend the directors' terms to three years. This will allow one third of the Board to rotate off with the selection every year of three new directors, providing the organization with more effective leadership. This proposal is subject to membership approval at the 2011 Annual Meeting.

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

## **2010 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. Dues are 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, 2010, there were 24 memberships in the organization – 6 individual memberships, 12 family memberships, 3 organization / business memberships, and 3 lifetime memberships. During 2010, one new family membership and one individual membership joined FAR. Four individual memberships, 8 family memberships, and one organization membership were not renewed.

The December 31, 2010 Membership Roster was as follows:

Allard, Patricia  
Atkinson, Robert and Kelly Mezic (W.C. Newman Co.)  
Boyer, Ruth and Cal  
Breen, Pat and Betty Robb  
Buckalew, Robin  
Buschmann, John  
Calhoun, Lonnie and Marian  
Daves-Johnson, Alecia  
Davis, Jim and Joyce  
Dorrill, William and Martha  
Fehrer, Damien and Deanna  
Green, Chuck and Faye  
Jamieson, John & Judith  
McCutchen, Elizabeth  
Phillips, Charles  
Powers, Bill and Martha  
Schuler, Pamela (J.E.B.'s Friends...)  
Sedgwick, Ellery and Robin  
Shear, Bill and Noelle Prince  
Smith, Maureen "Mo"  
Smith, Mel and Linda (Mel Smith & Associates)  
Sporbert, Kirk & Hadley  
Walker, Thomas  
Woodruff, Lee and Beth

## 2010 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 2010 fiscal year were as follows:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Memorial Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 3132.70	\$ 150.00	\$ 3282.70
<u>Gross Receipts</u>	\$ 1372.00	\$ 00.00	\$ 1372.00
Dues	\$ 520.00	\$ 0.00	
Donations	\$ 430.00	\$ 0.00	
Fundraising	\$ 422.00	\$ 0.00	
<u>Gross Expenditures</u>	\$ 457.04	\$ 0.00	\$ 457.04
Activities	\$ 93.86	\$ 0.00	
Operating	\$ 310.08	\$ 0.00	
Outreach	\$ 53.10	\$ 0.00	
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ <u>4047.66</u>	\$ <u>150.00</u>	\$ <u>4197.66</u>

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Damien C. Fehrer, President

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Alecia Daves-Johnson, Treasurer

## **2010 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. Current bylaws require four to eight directors to serve staggered terms of two years. As we began 2010, our Directors were:

Damien Fehrer	President
Jim Davis	Vice-President
Noelle Prince Shear	Secretary
Alecia Daves-Johnson	Treasurer
Elizabeth McCutchen	Membership Officer
Charles Phillips	Communications Coordinator
John Jamieson	At-large Director (resigned 5/10)
Lonnie Calhoun	At-large Director (resigned 12/10)

## **Goals for 2011**

The following items will be presented to the 2011 Board of Directors for their consideration, adoption and implementation.

### **Organization:**

Advance the organization's website (Implement / Administer / Maintain)  
Update the organization's brochure  
Develop a New Membership Packet

### **Mission - Stewardship, Education, Recreation:**

Open and Promote the Farmville Blueway  
Maintain our adopted section of the Appomattox and the Blueway  
Provide opportunities to explore the river and its tributaries  
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 socialize and celebrate special events