

## Friends of the Appomattox River



### 2011 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

It seems like 2011 flew by. Where did it go? Most of us have had a busy year dealing with the demands of work and family. Despite that, we were able to continue most of our FAR traditions and start a few new ones. 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 30<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Stewardship Virginia program. The "Fall River Renaissance" clean-up was conducted on October 8<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with Clean Virginia Waterways and the International Coastal Clean-up. The Fall River Renaissance event was the fifteenth hosted by the Friends of the Appomattox River. Together, these clean-up events removed over 630 pounds of trash from Wilcks Lake, Buffalo Creek, the Appomattox River, Briery Creek Reservoir and Sandy River Reservoir. Many of our members 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 the Appomattox River and Buffalo Creek. Eighteen EOD specialists (rotating personnel) worked on this project. The first logjam they tackled was downstream of the Rt. 45 bridge on the Schember Farm where an April tornado knocked down several large trees. The second was on Buffalo Creek downstream of the West Third Street bridge. Special thanks go out to Alecia Daves-Johnson, Charles Phillips, Mel Smith, Beth Woodruff, Jim Davis, Elizabeth and Joe McCutchen, Betty Robb Breen and Noelle Prince Shear for making arrangements to host the Team. We also want to thank Gerald Watts for providing the EOD Team with a fly-over of the site in his airplane, Raymond Chernault and Briery Excavating for supplying a piece of heavy equipment and an equipment operator, Mel Smith for providing the team 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, the Farmville Police Department, the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department and all the local stores and restaurants that provided them with meals and food supplies. Together, those named above and the 202 Bar and Grill, ARAMARK, Arby's, Charley's Waterfront Café,

County Cookin', Domino's Pizza, Macado's, Merk's Place, and Pizza Hut, provided over \$2400 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 February 8<sup>th</sup> Longwood University Volunteer Fair, the March 29<sup>th</sup> Longwood University Local Employer Showcase and the May 7<sup>th</sup> Heart of Virginia Festival. The booths attracted a lot of interest from the students and community. We handed out brochures, Blueway flyers and membership forms. Sales of Bluebird Houses and T-shirts at the Heart of Virginia Festival provided a successful fundraiser. Special thanks to Damien Fehrer and Charles Phillips for organizing these events.

Continued work to promote the Farmville Blueway:

The Program Committee invited Alecia Daves-Johnson to address the group after a Friday evening "dinner with Friends" at the Bakery. Alecia provided an update on the Special Project Committee's development of the Farmville Blueway, their vision for its future and how it may serve the Farmville-Prince Edward community. She also talked about the work that remains to be done and how the membership can get involved to support its completion. Alecia is currently seeking grant sources to help underwrite the cost of the project. Thanks Alecia.

Provided field trips for club members:

An unusually hot and dry June crimped the Field Trip Committee's paddling plans. River and stream levels dropped and did not recover until Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee arrived in September. On October 22<sup>nd</sup> we relaxed with a "paddle and picnic" on Sandy River Reservoir. Those who participated enjoyed a glorious late afternoon paddle. The lake was still and beautifully colored by the reflections of fall foliage. Thanks to Damien Fehrer for organizing this event.

Provided opportunities for socializing with club members:

The Board reinstated the tradition of the monthly "Dinner with Friends" on the last Friday of each month. Most of these dinners were held at the Bakery in downtown Farmville. Our Social Committee organized and conducted several enjoyable social events. Club members and guests were able to enjoy a coffee and dessert social at our Annual Meeting, a Progressive Dinner on August 26<sup>th</sup> "Strolling the Avenues" between the Davis, Woodruff and McCutchen residences, and a Christmas Party on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Special thanks to Beth Woodruff and Deanna Fehrer for organizing the events. Thanks to the Davis's, Woodruff's, McCutchen's and Fehrer's for hosting the events.

Took steps toward the use of Social Networking

Longwood Public Relations student and FAR Intern, Allison Dobson, made a presentation to the Board on the possibilities of improving FAR's visibility, outreach, recruitment and community involvement through social networking. She created a Twitter account for FAR and explained how Twitter works, how it can be used to quickly advertise event information to a wide audience and how it can be used to link to other organizations and individuals that might be interested in FAR's mission and activities. Alecia Daves-Johnson created a Facebook page for the FAR. Thanks Allison and Alecia.

Conducted a fundraiser:

The Jamieson's hosted a Bluebird House Assembly Project in John's backyard workshop on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Prior to the assembly, John Jamieson, Doug Gilfillan and Joe McCutchen spent the better part of day measuring, cutting and drilling all the parts for the bird houses. Amelia Lumber donated the wood for this project. John Buschmann made another donation of cedar lumber to the Friends. Robin Buckalew worked with the Prince Edward County Vocation Educational Students and their instructor to turn the lumber into even more Bluebird houses. All these bird houses provided a great fund-raiser at the Heart of Virginia Festival and will continue to do so for several years to come. Thanks John J., Doug, Joe, John B. and Robin for your contribution to the Friends.

Improved the efficiency of our organization:

The Board developed a New Membership Packet this year. The packet is designed to welcome new members and provide them with information on the organization. They also took steps to develop a written plan for hosting future Navy EOD Team events. This plan should make future EOD Team events easier to plan and carry out.

***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.***

**Goals for 2012**

The following items will be presented to the 2012 Board of Directors for their consideration, adoption and implementation.

Organization:

Advance the organization's website, Facebook and Twitter accounts

Update the organization's brochure

Recruit a Club Historian to compile and maintain historical records of the organization

Mission - Stewardship, Education, Recreation:

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

## **2011 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 allows non-members to join FAR 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, 2011, there were 27 memberships in the organization – 7 individual memberships, 15 family memberships, 1 organization membership, and 4 lifetime memberships.

The December 31, 2011 Membership Roster was as follows:

Allard, Patricia  
Atkinson, Robert and Kelly Mezic  
Baughman, Lisa (deceased 6/11)  
Boyer, Ruth and Cal  
Breen, Pat and Betty Robb  
Buschmann, John (deceased 10/11)  
Daves-Johnson, Alecia  
Davis, Jim and Joyce  
Dobson, Allison  
Dorrill, William and Martha  
Fehrer, Damien and Deanna  
Gilfillan, Doug and Sally  
Green, Chuck and Faye  
Jamieson, John & Judith  
Koesler, Rena  
McCutchen, Joe and 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)  
Walker, Thomas  
Whiley, Jordan and Elizabeth  
Willcox, David Lewis and Sandy  
Woodruff, Lee and Beth

## 2011 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 2011 fiscal year were as follows:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Memorial Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 4137.13	\$ 150.00	\$ 4287.13*
<u>Gross Receipts</u>	\$ 689.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 764.00
Dues	\$ 410.00	\$ 0.00	
Donations	\$ 0.00	\$ 75.00	
Fundraising	\$ 279.00	\$ 0.00	
<u>Gross Expenditures</u>	\$ 702.59	\$ 0.00	\$ 702.59
Activities	\$ 63.52	\$ 0.00	
Operating	\$ 355.37	\$ 0.00	
Outreach	\$ 283.70	\$ 0.00	
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ <u>4123.54</u>	\$ <u>225.00</u>	\$ <u>4348.54</u>

\* 2010 Ending Balance of \$4197.66 did not include \$100 in petty cash or reflect a payment of \$10.53 for stamps on 12/11/10.

## **2011 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 2011, our Directors were:

Damien Fehrer	President
Jim Davis	Vice-President
Noelle Prince Shear	Secretary
Beth Woodruff	Treasurer
Elizabeth McCutchen	Membership Officer
Charles Phillips	Communications Coordinator
Doug Gilfillan	At-large Director
Renee Koesler	At-large Director (resigned 2/11)
Maureen Smith	At-large Director (resigned 7/11)

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