



Friends of the Appomattox River
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2012 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

2012 was a busy year for the Friends of the Appomattox River, highlighted by recreational river field trips, area waterways clean up projects, lectures on the care of and historical significance of our waterways, a canoe and kayak safety program and fun social gatherings.

Recreational River Trips

(Field Trip Committee: Damien Fehrer, Chair)

Several Appomattox River outings were enjoyed. On May 19, nine members and guests floated a beautiful section of the Appomattox River between route 609 and route 608, and on June 16 seven members and guests floated The Farmville Blueway, traversing Wilcks Lake, portaging to Buffalo Creek, floating to its confluence with the Appomattox River and continuing to the take out at Riverside Park.

On October 20, eight members and guests departed from Bob Taylor's property on the Appomattox River and floated beneath High Bridge, past the old Jamestown Bridge to the Ligon's property take-out.

Waterways Care and Clean-up

(Stewardship Committee: Lee Woodruff, Chair)

(Special Projects Committee: Alecia Daves-Johnson, Chair)

On Saturday, April 21, we held our "Spring Spruce Up" event in conjunction with Stewardship Virginia. Seven members met at Wilcks Lake and dispersed to clean up along the Farmville Blueway, the Sandy River Reservoir and Briery Creek Lake. Two hundred pounds of debris were collected. The "Fall River Renaissance" on Saturday, October 6 was held in concert with Clean Virginia Waterways and International Coastal Clean-up. Scouring the same bodies of water, FAR members removed 550 pounds of trash.

During the week of September 17, the nine-member Navy Explosive Ordinance Disposal team cleared obstructions from the Appomattox River between state Routes 609 and 608. Alecia Daves-Johnson served as FAR liaison to the Navy EOD team.

We are thankful for the contributions to the Navy team made by many local businesses, individuals and agencies. The Sheriff's Department, the Town of Farmville and the Farmville Police Department and Farmville Herald served to offer protection and to provide supportive aid to the team, while Mainly Clay, Country Cookin', Kroger, Wal-Mart, Charley's Waterfront Café, Merk's Place, Mrs. John Young, Gordon Johnson and Alecia Daves-Johnson, Aramark of Longwood University, and (Ret) Admiral and Mrs. Picotte provided or contributed toward their meals. The YMCA provided the team with shower facilities. Mel Smith allowed the Navy EOD team a place to sleep at The Mill.

Educational Programs

(Program Committee: Noelle Prince-Shear, Chair)

The Friends Of The Appomattox River met on several occasions for educational and instructional programs. On April 27 biologist Katie Burke of Hampden-Sydney College talked to our group about the importance of riparian environments, while on November 9, Bob Flippen, historian for the High Bridge Trail State Park, entertained us with stories of life along the Appomattox, emphasizing the river's important historical role in the culture related to Farmville and its outlying area.

On August 25, Rena Koesler and Lee Woodruff, FAR members who are trained in water safety techniques, presented a canoe and kayak water safety program at Longwood University's Willett Pool. The program provided verbal presentations, video footage and hands on demonstration- enabling attendees to maximally benefit from and absorb the information.

Socials

(Social Committee: Beth Woodruff, Deanna Fehrer, Co-chairs)

The Friends Of The Appomattox River shared good times this year. Besides our agreeing on waterway environmental concerns, conviviality seems to define us. For example, on March 17 we met at Charley's to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day.

In July Damien and Deanna Fehrer invited FAR members and guests to a Hot Dog Cook-Out and Ice Cream Social at their home. More than twenty folk enjoyed Carolina Dogs with all the fixin's and a wide array of ice creams and complementary cookies. We enjoyed the chance to wander among the Fehrer's garden nooks, and a primitive fire-starting demonstration by Al Lookofsky added an educational dimension to the evening.

On August 31 the Friends enjoyed an "End Of Summer Party" at the home of Lee and Beth Woodruff. The event was preceded by an optional float on Wilcks Lake. Carolyn and Sam Martin and Al and Betsy Lookofsky together enjoyed the outing. We gathered largely outdoors in the Woodruff's garden-yard, relieved by the evening's cool, and enjoyed delightful foods and drinks.

A well-attended Christmas gathering was held on December 7 at the home of Chuck and Faye Green. The crowd was festive, the food was varied and sumptuous and conversation flowed easily among the friends and their guests.

Community Connection

(Outreach Committee: Chuck Green, Chair)

A decision was made by the committee and board to attempt complete newspaper coverage of all events of the Friends Of The Appomattox River. Outreach committee members proposed that we take a picture and render a caption for each FAR event.

At the Heart of Virginia festival on May 5, FAR's booth was manned by members who served one to two hour stretches. Our organization's causes were conveyed, and many folks stopped by to discuss our concerns and to determine the intent of the organization. FAR brochures were distributed, membership applications were passed out, and bird houses, kerchiefs and FAR t-shirts were sold for a total of \$220.

A new FAR brochure was designed with the help of graphic design consultation, and two hundred copies were made and locally distributed. The brochure includes new images and a restructured mission and activities statement layout that presents a more professional image of the organization.

2012 Business and Developments

The Friends Of The Appomattox River previously adopted a section of the Appomattox River, that segment from US Route 15 to state Route 45, which we were to maintain as part of the Virginia DCR Adopt A Stream Program. The board decided that doing so was impractical and that we will henceforth concentrate on maintenance of the Farmville Blueway. However, FAR will continue to report problems along the adopted section of river to the Department of Conservation and Recreation and will work with them to maintain that section of the river.

The Farmville Blueway may be where the Friends of the Appomattox River focuses on its mission in the future. An ad hoc Farmville Blueway committee, with Damien Fehrer as its chair, has established our organization's Blueway goals; a campaign to increase public awareness of the Blueway, a solicitation of partnership with the Town of Farmville, and an explication of the uses and importance of our Blueway to the larger Farmville community.

The Friends of the Appomattox River has also agreed to be a "park friendly" organization to High Bridge Trail State Park, which implies that FAR will be an advocate for the High Bridge Trail State Park in the event that they need our support.

The Friends of the Appomattox River has purchased a new Stihl Pole Pruner, which will allow increased accessibility for the removal of obstructive limbs on the river.

Goals For 2013

Organizational

- Promotion of the organization's website, Facebook and Twitter accounts
- Recruitment of a Club Historian to compile and maintain historical records of the organization

Mission - Stewardship, Education, Recreation

- Promotion and maintenance of the Farmville Blueway
- Provision of opportunities for exploration of the Appomattox River and its tributaries
- Provide programs of interest to the membership and community.
- Enhancement of community awareness of our water resources
- Connection with organizations having similar interests
- Provision of opportunities for member socialization

2012 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, 2012, there were 32 memberships in the organization: 5 individual memberships, 22 family memberships, 2 business membership and 3 lifetime memberships.

The December 31, 2012 Membership Roster was as follows:

Allard, Patricia
Atkinson, Robert & Kelly (W.C. Newman Co.)
Boyer, Ruth & Cal
Breen, Pat & Betty Robb
Brooks, Clifford
Daves-Johnson, Alecia
Davis, Jim & Joyce
Dennison, Tom & Marianne
Dillon, Cy & Karen
Dorrill, William & Martha
Fehrer, Damien & Deanna
Gilfillan, Sally & Doug
Green, Chuck & Faye
Heinemann, Ronald & Sandy
Jackson, George & Blair
Jamieson, John & Judith
Koesler, Rena
Ligon, Woodfin & Ann
Lookofsky, Al & Betsy
Martin, Sam & Carolyn
McCutchen, Elizabeth & Joe
Phillips, Charles
Powers, Bill & Martha
Sedgwick, Ellery & Robin
Shear, Bill & Noelle Prince
Smith, Mel & Linda (The Mill)
Spencer, Corson
Taylor, Bob & Martha
Walker, Thomas
Willcox, David Lewis & Sandy
Wine, John & Barbara
Woodruff, Lee & Beth

2012 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.

Beginning Balance:		\$4,348.54*
<u>Income</u>		\$1,009.00
Dues	\$685.00	
Fundraisers	224.00	
Gift Fund	100.00	
<u>Expenses</u>		\$1,414.53
Operating	\$332.09	
Activities	688.22	
Outreach	394.22	
Ending Balance:		\$3,943.01*

*Includes Gift Fund of \$325.00

2012 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 who serve under the authority of its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The Board is elected by the Organization membership. Officers are elected by the Board. Current bylaws require that four to nine Directors serve staggered terms of three years.

As we began 2012 our Directors were:

President-	Chuck Green
Vice-President-	Jim Davis
Treasurer-	Beth Woodruff
Secretary-	Damien Fehrer
Membership Officer-	Marty Dorrill
Communications Coordinator-	Rena Koesler
At Large Director-	Lee Woodruff
At Large Director-	Doug Gilfillan