

Friends of the Appomattox River



2008 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

Together, we accomplished a great deal in 2008.

Celebrated 10 years of successes:

We started off the year by celebrating our 10 Year Anniversary. The Friends of the Appomattox River (FAR) was formed in 1997. Alecia Daves-Johnson provided us with a brief history that highlighted some of our accomplishments – adoption of a section of river from Rt. 15 to Rt. 45, regular trash clean-up along this section of river and others, creation of the Farmville Blueway, restoration of the Farmville & Powhatan railroad bridge abutment, creation of riparian buffers, a lot of fun outings and a better educated public. A photo of the current group was published in the *Farmville Herald* with an article acknowledging the accomplishments of the group.

Formation of a non-profit corporation:

With the help of Harlan Horton, a local attorney and friend of the Friends, FAR formalized its status by converting itself to a non-profit corporation. This allowed the group to separate itself from the Old Dominion Resource Conservation District and establish legal protections for its officers and members. Articles of Incorporation were prepared, a new set of bylaws was developed, a tax I.D. number was obtained and a bank account was established for the Friends. On August 28 the club membership approved the dissolution of the former organization and formation of the corporation. The organization was incorporated on September 18. The Board of Directors approved the new bylaws the same day.

Maintained our river and lakes:

Our Stewardship and Special Projects Committees worked hard to plan and execute three successful clean up projects. Eight persons participated in the April 26 Spring Clean-up on Wilcks Lake, Buffalo Creek and the Appomattox River. The Navy EOD Team returned on September 22. Twelve members of the Navy EOD Team worked cooperatively with Prince Edward County, the Town of Farmville, and a local contractor (WCW Earthworks) to clean up four logjams above Prospect and Farmville.

Eleven persons participated in the October 4 Fall Clean-up on Wilcks Lake and the Farmville Blueway. The two river clean-ups removed over 1000 pounds of trash. Members of the stewardship Committee also removed several logjams along the Farmville Blueway. The fall clean-up was featured in the *Farmville Herald*. The work done by the Navy EOD Team was featured in the *Southside Messenger*.

Strengthened a riparian buffer:

The Special Projects Committee led a project on April 6 to replace missing trees in the riparian buffer established several years ago on the SE side of the Rt. 45 Bridge.

Co-hosted global warming forum:

Our Community Outreach Committee assisted the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club with a forum sponsored by Longwood University. The November 13 forum was titled "Think Globally, Act Locally: Virginia's Responsibilities and Response in Addressing Climate Change". Over 100 individuals attended the event.

Hosted a guest speaker:

On February 28, the Community Outreach Committee hosted Eric Hougland, Park Manager for the new High Bridge Trail State Park. An informative presentation was made on Virginia's newest State Park. Ideas for cooperative efforts were discussed.

Assisted with a Meals on Wheels fundraiser:

Our Social Committee led us as we assisted with a "Duck Race" during the June 6 First Friday event. Volunteers had a big time releasing and catch several hundred rubber ducks, each with a number corresponding to a raffle ticket. This event helped raise funds for Meals on Wheels and provided FAR with additional publicity.

Participated in the Appomattox River Company Demo Day:

Our Community Outreach Committee joined several other river related organizations that set up booths at the June 14 Appomattox River Company Demo Day. Members that volunteered to man the booth also had the opportunity to try out a large variety of water craft on display. Hundreds of water enthusiasts attend this annual event.

Provided field trips for club members:

Our Adventure and Social Committees led us on a August 16 moonlight paddle on the Sandy River Reservoir. Twenty members and guests participated in this trip.

Provided opportunities for socializing with club members:

Our Social Committee organized four social events. Club members and guests were able to enjoy an April 25 cook out at Mel's Mill, a August 28 pot-luck dinner at the Breen's, a September 25 Thank You Dinner for the Navy EOD Team, and a December 5 Christmas Party at the Fehrer's.

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

Officers and Board of Directors

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 2008 were:

Damien Fehrer	President
Robin Buckalew	Vice-President
Betty Robb Breen	Secretary
Alecia Daves-Johnson	Treasurer

Membership Report

Individuals, families, businesses and organizations, who are in agreement with its mission and willing to subscribe to the Bylaws and policies of Friends of the Appomattox River, are eligible for membership upon annual payment of dues. To remain a member in good standing, and have the right to vote at meetings or enjoy membership privileges, membership fees shall be paid by their due date. The 2008 dues were as follows:

Individuals	\$10
Families	\$15
Organizations/Businesses	\$20

The Friends of the Appomattox River started off the 2008 year with a roster of thirty-four members. During the course of the year four new members joined the group, fourteen existing members dropped out. As of December 31, 2008, twenty-four individuals, families and businesses held membership in the organization.

The December 31, 2008 Membership Roster was as follows:

Last Name	First Name	Company	Membership Type
Atkinson	Robert and Kelly Mezic	W.C. Newman	Business
Boyer	Ruth and Cal		Family
Breen	Pat and Betty Robb		Family
Buckalew	David and Robin		Family
Buschmann	John		Lifetime
Conner	David and Matthew (son)		Family
Daves-Johnson	Alecia and Gordon		Family
Davis	Jim and Joyce		Family
Dorrill	William and Martha		Family
Ellison	John and Paula		Family
Fehrer	Damien and Deanna		Family
Gilfillan	Sally and Doug		Family
Green	Chuck and Faye		Family
Hamlet	Gwen D.		Individual

Jamieson	John & Judith		Family
Martindale	Bonnie		Individual
McCutchen	Joe and Elizabeth		Family
Phillips	Charles		Individual
Sedgwick	Ellery and Robin		Family, Lifetime
Sercombe	Dennis and Sharon		Family
Smith	Mel and Linda	Mel Smith & Assoc.	Business
Steinhorst	Kim		Individual
Willcox	David Lewis and Sandy		Family
Woodruff	Lee and Beth		Family

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 of 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 2008 fiscal year were as follows:

<u>Beginning Balance</u>		\$1910.36
<u>Gross Receipts</u>		\$ 470.00
Dues & Donations	\$ 320.00	
Sales	\$ 150.00	
<u>Gross Expenditures</u>		\$ 238.89
Activities	\$ 34.19	
Fees	\$ 204.70	
<u>Ending Balance</u>		\$ 2141.47
<u>Memorial Fund</u>		\$ 125.00
<u>Total Funds on Hand</u>		<u>\$ 2266.47</u>

Damien C. Fehrer, Chair

Alecia Daves-Johnson, Treasurer

Goals for 2009

The following items will be presented to the 2009 Board of Directors for their consideration, adoption and implementation. Additional goals may be taken on at their discretion.

Organization:

- Obtain a General Liability Insurance policy.
- Develop Policy and Procedures
- Obtain recognition from the IRS as a 501(c)3 organization
- Develop a reporting requirements checklist (IRS, SCC, etc.)
- Update the organization's brochure
- Update the organization's website

Mission - Stewardship, Education, Recreation:

- Maintain our adopted section of the Appomattox and the Blueway
- Obtain grants for development of the Farmville Blueway
- Improve the community's appreciation of our water resources
- Establish a programs committee to provide programs of interest to the membership
- Provide opportunities to explore the river and its tributaries
- Provide opportunities to socialize and celebrate special events