

THE RIVER RUNS

News from the Cowpasture River Preservation Association



Inside This Issue:

- Ø From the President
- Ø Executive Assistant's Corner
- Ø Aesthetics Committee Update
- Ø Field Trip Highlights
- Ø Annual Meeting Highlights
- Ø Walton Tract Clean-Up
- Ø "Special Places" Essay by Nelson Hoy
- Ø Atlantic Coast Pipeline Update
- Ø Summer Picnic Announcement
- Ø Join or Renew Your Membership

Canoers on the Cowpasture River as it runs through Camp Mont Shenandoah. Photo courtesy of Camp Mont Shenandoah and 323 Unmanned Flight Services. *Please send us your best photos of the Cowpasture River.*

Board of Directors (2019-2020)

Officers:

Richard Brooks, President

David Burnett, Treasurer

Kim Manion, Secretary

Directors:

Lucius Bracey

Linda Cauley

Elizabeth Dudley

Michael Hayslett

Marshall Higgins

Catherine Manner

Norwood Morrison

Steve Van Lear

Nan Mahone Wellborn

Jeremy White

Staff:

Lynne Griffith,

Executive Assistant

Editor: *Lynne Griffith*

Photographer: *Kathy Farmer*

From the President

Two recent events have provided me a much-needed change of perspective. It turns out that I need to be reminded of the important things from time to time.

The first was reading the latest piece submitted by Nelson Hoy, which begins on page 6 of this issue of *The River Runs*. This is the 20th essay that Nelson has marshaled for CRPA and the community. Many of these he wrote and some he encouraged from others, but all of them increase our knowledge and understanding of our beloved watershed. This is a huge contribution, one that I hope won't end with his current piece.

The second event was seeing this young fellow eyeing our birdfeeders. He showed up last week hungry, lonely and a little disoriented. Mostly hungry, I presume. So, our feeders came inside, and for the next day or so, we encouraged him to move along.

Both of these have me just a little bit more in tune with my surroundings. Nelson's piece reminds me that there is so much to do and explore. And, my visiting bear let me know that there's adventure right outside my door.

I hope that each of you can get out and explore at least one new place in our watershed this summer. You'll be better for it. But watch out for bears.

Sincerely,

Dick Brooks



Executive Assistant's Corner

We've had a very busy spring season. On May 18th, we had our largest Annual Meeting to date. A total of 96 people attended at beautiful Camp Mont Shenandoah. You can check out the highlights on page 5. We elected three new board members at the meeting — Linda Cauley, Norwood Morrison and Catherine Manner. We also had to say goodbye to three of our departing board members at the end of their terms — Nelson Hoy, Stewart Hobbs and Caryl Cowden. You will learn more about each of these board members, both past and present, in the upcoming fall issue of The River Runs. We are excited that Caryl Cowden has agreed to become the chairperson of the Membership Committee, so we will enjoy still having her work with us in this new capacity.



We've had three great field trips during this past spring season. The interest and participation in these trips continue to grow over time. Please check out the highlights of each of the trips on page 4. And don't forget there are still two more field trips to come — the "Purple Alien Invasion" trip on Saturday, July 13 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. This will be an auto/walking tour with multiple stops along the lower Cowpasture and Jackson rivers. In addition, there will also be a "Griffith Knob Ascent" trip on Saturday, October 5 (hours still to be determined). Dave Peters will guide the hike up to the top of Griffith Knob, with geology/forest ecology discussions along the way. You can read more about these field trips on our website and our Facebook page.

Finally, our annual summer picnic is coming up on Saturday, July 20th. This year, our picnic will be held on the beautiful grounds of David and Kit Burnett's home, which overlooks the Cowpasture River. Learn more details on page 15. Please consider joining us for this very fun event, and don't forget to RSVP. We hope to see you there!

AESTHETICS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Highland County Artists' Weekend "Wet Paint" Art Show and Sale: Sunday, June 30, 2 to 4 pm at the Highland Center in Monterey - Be on the lookout for artists painting scenes throughout Highland County during the weekend of June 28-30. New this year, Hayfields Farm will be open for painters to capture the Bullpasture River and valley. The event will culminate with a "Wet Paint" Art Show and sale of works completed over the weekend on Sunday afternoon from 2 to 4 pm at the Highland Center in Monterey.

Check out the 55th Annual Bath County Art Show to discover the winner of the CRPA award for "Best Image Cowpasture or Bullpasture River: Any Medium." — New this year, CRPA is sponsoring a \$200 award for the best image of the Cowpasture or Bullpasture River in any medium. John Henry Rice, Associate Curator, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the 2019 judge, will be determining the award.

Bath County Art Show runs 1-5 pm July 20-27 and 10 am to noon July 28 at Valley Elementary School, 98 Panther Drive, Hot Springs. For more information: www.bathcountyarts.org.

FIELD TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

Mountain Wetlands of the Cowpasture River Valley — March 24, 2019



Photo by Lynne Griffith

John & Sue Bane, Scott Olson, Kim Manion, Jane Lindsay, Glovie Lynn, David Burnett, Laura Logan, Steven Johnson, Michael Hayslett at Millboro Elementary School.



Photo by Sue Bane

Field trip leader Michael Hayslett instructing the group regarding floodplain wetlands in the oxbow at Sycamore Bend Farm.

Shale Barrens of the Allegheny Mountains — May 14, 2019



Photo by Lynne Griffith

Michael Hayslett, Dave Peters, Ellen Ford, John Townsend, Christopher Swezey, Chris & Forrest Moore



Photo by Michael Hayslett

Field trip leader, John Townsend (VDCR), shows explorers rare plants on the steep slope of a Wilson Creek shale barren.

Spring Birds of the Cowpasture River Valley — May 19, 2019

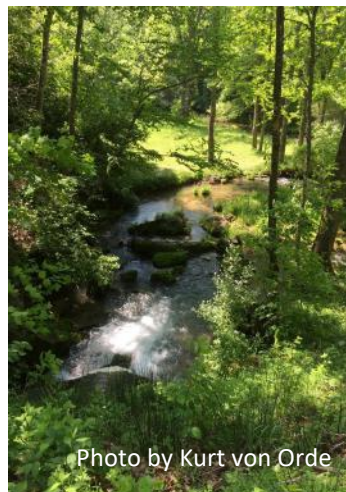


Photo by Kurt von Orde

Bullpasture Gorge — one of the gorgeous stops on the birding field trip.



Photo by Dave Peters

Michael Hayslett, Terry Flaherty (trip leader), Anne Bryan, Joe Murray, Elizabeth and Witcher Dudley, Kim Manion, Celia Rutt, Liz Van Lear, Rhet Wilson and Kurt von Orde at Wallace Tract on the national forest in Highland County.

Don't forget to sign up for the Purple Alien Invasion field trip on Saturday, July 13, 2019 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, as well as the Griffith Knob Ascent on Saturday, October 5th (hours to be determined).

Annual Meeting Highlights and the Walton Tract Clean-Up



Photo by Lynne Griffith

Lou Robinson, Lucius Bracey, John Fowler, Kay Morgan and Betty Robinson



Photo by Lynne Griffith

Mindy Brooks, Mary Margaret King and Ann Warner



Photo by Lynne Griffith

The Silent Auction



Photo by Lynne Griffith

Stewart Hobbs and others catching up!

We had 96 people turn out for our 47th CRPA Annual Meeting and Dinner on May 18, 2019. Many thanks to Ann Warner and Camp Mont Shenandoah for hosting our big event. Additional thanks to Nan Mahone Wellborn, Peg Sheridan, Debra Sheffer, Julie Farrell, Linda Cauley, John Fowler and Caryl & John Cowden for contributing items to our Silent Auction. And finally, many thanks to Café Michel, Jack Mason's Tavern and Northwest True Value Hardware (all from Clifton Forge) who donated items to our raffle. It was a team effort, and we could not have done it without you.



The Walton Tract Clean-Up

Thanks to all of you who came out on April 27th to help us with our bi-annual clean-up at the Walton Tract. We had some newcomers this time, and it was a pleasure to have them participate. Many thanks to the Potomac Hunt Club for their faithfulness in continually serving at this event.



Photo by Lynne Griffith

Dale Perry, Aili Waller and Ross Waller discard a nasty old tire that they found.



Photo by Lynne Griffith

Harold Smestad, Michael Hayslett, Susan Lovelady, Gilbert Raney, Bucky Wells, Jim Bayliss, Dale Perry. (Dave Peters not pictured.)

Special Places of Aesthetic and Recreational Value in the Bullpasture and Cowpasture River Valleys

by C. Nelson Hoy, Forester, Rancher & Conservationist

The Cowpasture River of Virginia is arguably the cleanest and most pristine river basin in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Nestled among the Allegheny Mountains and bulwarked against the influences of Washington and Richmond by the great Shenandoah Mountain, the Cowpasture River flows 84 miles southward through Highland, Bath, Alleghany and Botetourt counties. The Cowpasture River then joins the Jackson River near Iron Gate, Virginia. Together, these two rivers form the mighty James River.

The primary tributary of the Cowpasture is the Bullpasture River with its headwaters north of Doe Hill, Virginia. The Bullpasture flows in a southwest direction for 26 miles between Jack Mountain on the west and Bullpasture Mountain on the east, creating the Bullpasture Gorge before joining the Cowpasture River just below Williamsville. Simpson Creek, Davis Run and several smaller runs and drafts join the Bullpasture and Cowpasture rivers along the way.

The Cowpasture River Preservation Association (CRPA) recognizes special places of aesthetic and recreational value along the Bullpasture River, Cowpasture River or a tributary that also afford public access. Beginning in the north and proceeding southward, this essay explores ten such special places.

Part I – The Bullpasture River Valley of Virginia

McDowell Battlefield on the Bullpasture River – Fought among the Appalachian mountains and valleys of Highland County, the Civil War Battle of McDowell on May 8, 1862 marked Confederate General Stonewall Jackson's first victory in his legendary Valley Campaign, which succeeded in relieving Union pressure on Richmond and saved the Shenandoah Valley, known then as the



"Reconnaissance at McDowell" by Bradley Schmehl. Used by permission. bradleyschmehl.com

"breadbasket of the confederacy." The Bullpasture River, joined by Crab and Duff runs, bisects the McDowell Battlefield, the hamlet of McDowell, Virginia, and livestock pasture in the floodplains. It also passes along the base of Sitlington Hill on Bullpasture Mountain.

A mile-long hiking trail within the McDowell Civil War Battlefield begins at a trailhead along U.S. Route 250 east of the hamlet and ascends Sitlington Hill to the Confederate positions, where it offers a spectacular view of the Bullpasture River valley below. Public access to the Bullpasture River itself is limited to a short

frontage along Virginia Route 656 and perhaps a service road to the hamlet's water towers. The McDowell Battlefield lies on both sides of the Bullpasture River and extends south of the U.S. Route 250 bridge for a mile or more. The Highland Historical Society purchased 26 acres of pastureland at the core of the battlefield, and the Society sponsors reenactments of the Battle of McDowell every three to five years.

Location: The McDowell Battlefield is located primarily east of the hamlet of McDowell and both north and south of U.S. Route 250, 26 miles west of Churchville, Virginia and 10 miles east of Monterey, Virginia. There are no public restrooms.

Highland Historical Society
161 Mansion House Rd
Post Office Box 63
McDowell, Virginia 24458
(540) 396-4478

Hayfields Farm on the Bullpasture River – Hayfields Farm, a 1,034-acre working farm located in Highland County, is traversed by the Bullpasture River for a little more than a mile and bordered on both the east and west by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) Highland Wildlife Management Area (HWMA). With the HWMA Bullpasture Mountain Tract to the east and the HWMA Jack Mountain Tract to the west, Hayfields Farm functions as a wildlife bridge or corridor. Hayfields Farm features at least five cold-water springs that have been developed into ponds or cisterns to provide freshwater sources for cattle and wildlife. The property contains several emergent, shrub and forested freshwater wetlands.

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) now owns Hayfields Farm, and the Foundation has commissioned urban planners and landscape architects to study and recommend alternative uses for the property. Facilities on the farm may be useful for agricultural and conservation research, educational programs, meetings and/or lodging. In addition to fly-fishing, outdoor recreational opportunities may eventually include naturalist studies and hiking, nature and landscape photography and painting, riparian, grasslands and forest birding, big game and bird hunting. At the time of this writing and publication, however, Hayfields Farm is **not open to the public**.

Public access to wildlife viewing is available along Bullpasture River Road, which crosses the Hayfields property for about 4,300 feet. This scenic byway is part of the DGIF Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail, and the property lies within the Audubon Society's Allegheny Highlands Important Bird Area (IBA).

Location: Hayfields Farm is located along Bullpasture River Road (VA Route 678) at 524 Hayfields Lane, McDowell, VA 24458 – 8.1 miles south of McDowell, Virginia, and 6.2 miles north of Williamsville, Virginia.

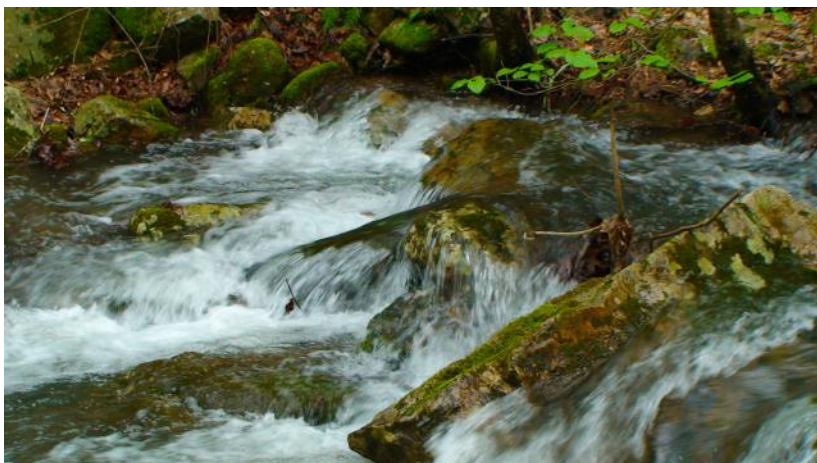
Hayfields Farm
c/o Virginia Outdoors Foundation
39 Garrett Street, Suite 200
Warrenton, Virginia 20186
(540) 347-7727



The Bullpasture River Passing Under the Hayfields Farm Bridge.
Photo courtesy of Virginia Outdoors Foundation

Highland Wildlife Management Area on Davis Run – The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries oversees this 14,000-acre mountainous wildlife reserve, which encompasses Sounding Knob, the Davis Run watershed, the water gap between Bear Mountain and Buck Hill, diverse red spruce and boreal plant communities, and oak, hickory and mesic forest habitats and wildlife. Davis Run is a wild native brook trout stream that falls through a mature mesic forest over ledges and among a jumble of rocks with a never-ending roar. The lookout tower on Sounding Knob at 4,400 feet affords a spectacular vista of the Appalachian Mountains. The Jack Mountain Tract of the Highland Wildlife Management Area covers a wide variety of forest habitats and a 2,600-foot differential in elevation. As a result, it offers fine recreational opportunities for birding and wildlife enthusiasts.

Location: At the junction of U.S. Route 250 and VA Route 615, drive south along Route 615 for 2.3 miles to Sounding Knob Road. Parking is available in adjacent clearings. Alternatively, beginning at the junction of VA Route 678 and Route 615, drive west for 2 miles to the junction of Davis Run Road and Sounding Knob Road. Drive or hike westward into the Highland Wildlife Management Area along Sounding Knob Road (public access) for approximately 6,000 feet along Davis Run and through the water gap. Sounding Knob Road fords Davis Run. It is a narrow, rough road, so it's best to have a four-wheel-drive vehicle or hiking boots and wading sandals. It's another 12,000 feet to the top of Sounding Knob. (No public restrooms.)



Highland Wildlife Management Area
Virginia Department of Game and
Inland Fisheries
57 Lee Highway
Verona, Virginia 24482
(540) 248-9360

The Davis Run Water Gap — Photo courtesy of Tom Mohr

Highland Wildlife Management Area on the Bullpasture River – The HWMA Bullpasture Mountain Tract offers a wide range of recreational opportunities. The Highland Wildlife Management Area features an Appalachian oak and hickory forest, small wildlife clearings, and soft mast plantings, including apple, cherry and dogwood. The Bullpasture River is a well-stocked mountain stream that will delight anyone fishing its cool, clear waters.

The Bullpasture River Gorge itself is a scenic waterway with cliffs and large boulders, and it presents a dangerous, sometimes life-threatening, challenge to the whitewater enthusiast. The Bullpasture River, from its confluence with the Cowpasture River north and including the Bullpasture Gorge, is eligible for designation under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act because it is free flowing with remarkable scenic, recreational, and geologic values. Intermediate whitewater canoe or kayak enthusiasts step up to Class III, IV and V runs, rapids and falls.

Location: Approximately 2.5 miles north of Williamsville on Indian Draft Road (VA Route 678), a HWMA public access point provides parking on the west side of the Bullpasture River and a swinging bridge for crossing to the east side of the Bullpasture River Gorge. (No public restrooms.)



Highland Wildlife Management Area
Virginia Department of Game and In-
land Fisheries
57 Lee Highway
Verona, Virginia 24482
(540) 248-9360

WARNING: The Bullpasture Gorge Rapids and Falls Can Be Life Threatening. The Bullpasture River Gorge Offers Class III, IV and V Whitewater Kayaking.

Photo courtesy of Mark Andes and www.americanwhitewater.org

Part II – The Cowpasture River Valley of Virginia

Bullpasture and Cowpasture Rivers Confluence – South of the hamlet of Williamsville, Virginia the Bullpasture River joins the Cowpasture River on its journey south through Bath and Alleghany Counties. At the junction, both rivers are transformed from rocky tumbling mountain streams into the slower, easier and meandering river that native Americans named the Wallawatoola River meaning the river that winds. The Cowpasture River valley in those times was a hunting and raiding territory that changed stewardship over the centuries among the Cherokee, Iroquois and Shawnee Nations. American Indians, long before the U.S. Forest Service introduced prescribed burns, practiced wildfire management of the valley's grasslands to improve wildlife habitat for buffalo, elk and deer. Today the Cowpasture River winds through miles of Appalachian oak, hickory and pine forests, past grazing beef cattle and sheep, and graces summer camps for boys and girls.

At this location, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) swinging bridge No. 9000 allows pedestrians and cyclists a dry foot-crossing of the Cowpasture River near a ford across the river – a classic purpose of swinging bridges. Another one tenth of a mile south along Junction Road, motor vehicles can cross the Cowpasture River by way of a low-water ford. Hikers can continue along VA Route 628 to the northeast. Canoe and kayak enthusiasts can access the Cowpasture River for a float trip downstream to the USFS GWNF Wallace Tract.

Fishing from the swinging bridge or the riverbanks is a favorite summer pastime for residents and guests alike. But here fish species have subtly changed from cold water-dependent native brook trout, rainbow trout and smallmouth bass to species that are better adapted to slightly warmer and slower waters – large-mouth bass, rock bass, fallfish and bluegill in the upper river and muskellunge

in the lower Cowpasture River. Colder tributaries – Dry Run, Jordan Run, Mare Run, and Lick Run in Bath County, and the North Fork of Simpson’s Creek in Alleghany County will host colder water fishes like native brook trout.

Note that with the exception of the Virginia Department of Transportation swinging bridge and the VDOT right-of-way along Virginia Route 628, these lands are private property. (No public restrooms.)

Location: Beginning in Williamsville, Virginia along Indian Draft Road or VA Route 678 turn east on Cowpasture River Road South for 50 feet and then turn right or south on Junction Road or VA Route 628 driving about one mile.



Bullpasture and Cowpasture Rivers
Confluence VDOT No. 9000 Swinging Bridge
Photo Courtesy of C. Nelson Hoy

Staunton District
Virginia Department of Transportation
(VDOT)
811 Commerce Road
Staunton, Virginia 24401
540-332-9104

Coursey Springs Fish Cultural Station at Meadow Lake – Coursey Springs is one of nine fish-rearing facilities operated by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF). Originally known as Meadow Lake springs by local folks, this spring produces 4,000 gallons per minute of cool, clear water in dry or drought seasons and 16,000 gallons during heavy rain events. About seven miles north of the facility, the Cowpasture River falls into a karst sinkhole, and then travels through subterranean passageways and caves and under the Bullpasture River before emerging as Meadow Lake springs. During this underground journey, the waters of the Cowpasture River chill to about 53 degrees Fahrenheit – an ideal temperature for raising trout.

Constructed in the 1960s as a fish hatchery, the new DGIF-operated state-of-the-art fish cultural center draws cold, clear waters from the state's third largest spring and produces about 500,000 seven- to 18-inch trout each season. Coursey Springs does not spawn or hatch trout, but instead it serves as a trout grow-out facility by receiving fingerlings from the Paint Bank Fish Culture Station in Craig County and growing them to advanced fingerling or catchable-sized fish. The Fish Cultural Station features several large trout-rearing tanks, naturalized creek-side fishing areas, riparian buffer areas and open fields.

Location: In Williamsville at the intersection of Cowpasture River Road South (VA Route 614) and Indian Draft Road (VA Route 678), drive south along Indian Draft Road for 1.3 miles, turn left or east onto Hatchery Road and proceed for another 0.3 miles. Although the hatchery has no formal visitors center, the public is welcome to enjoy a free, self-guided tour 365 days a year from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM. (No public restrooms.)



DGIF Coursey Springs Rainbow and Brown Trout Being Released into the South River.

Photo Courtesy of Daniel Lin of the *Daily News-Record*.

Coursey Springs Fish Cultural Center
Virginia Department of Game and
Inland Fisheries
300 Hatchery Lane
Millboro, Virginia 24460
(540) 925-2343

USFS GWNF Wallace Tract on the Cowpasture River – The George Washington National Forest's Wallace Tract straddles the Cowpasture River for about one mile south of Williamsville. The Wallace Tract provides public access for hiking, bicycling, hunting, fishing and primitive camping, wildlife viewing, photography and painting. The Wallace Tract swinging bridge across the Cowpasture River connects Forest Road No. 282 and primitive camping acreage in the west with substantial acreage of the George Washington National Forest to the east and the USFS Sugar Tree Road. The swinging bridge features classic wooden towers, deck and rails built in 1991-92 by Sahale, LLC for the U.S. Forest Service based on a traditional bridge design supplied by the National Park Service.

The woodlands and fields found along both sides of the Cowpasture River provide a diversity of wildlife habitats, while the river itself can be experienced by canoe, kayak or tube. Spawning muskellunge, a rarity in the state, are present in this segment of the river.

Cross-country and mountain bicycling enthusiasts can enjoy a challenging loop south from Williamsville, east along Scottstown Draft, north along Sugar Tree Road and into high country, west and downward along a forest haul road, then south bushwhacking across open or overgrown fields past the antebellum Wallace House before crossing the swinging footbridge over the Cowpasture River. From the west side of the Cowpasture River, Forest Road 282 climbs back to VA Route 678 and a hard surface road climb back to Williamsville.

Location: In Williamsville at the intersection of Cowpasture River Road (VA Route 614) and Indian Draft Road (VA Route 678), drive south along Indian Draft Road for 2.2 miles and turn left or east along Forest Road 282 for another 0.8 miles. Park vehicles near a gate and walk into the Wallace Tract favoring a left fork and down to the riverbank and the swinging bridge. (No public restrooms.)



North River Ranger District
U.S. Forest Service
401 Oakwood Drive
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801
(540) 432-0187

The Cowpasture River Lazily Flowing Through the U.S. Forest Service
Wallace Tract in the Fall
Photo Courtesy of C. Nelson Hoy

USFS GWNF Walton Tract on the Cowpasture River – The GWNF Walton Tract swinging bridge is owned and operated by the U.S Forest Service, Warm Springs Ranger District, and it provides public access to the George Washington National Forest on the west side of the Cowpasture River. The Walton Tract swinging bridge, most likely constructed in the late 1970s, spans 218.5 feet across the Cowpasture River, featuring 32 ft. tall steel I-beam towers and a 30-inch-wide pedestrian deck. Experiencing this swinging bridge by itself is well worth the visit.

The woodlands and fields found along both sides of the Cowpasture River provide a diversity of wildlife habitats with wildflowers to enjoy in the spring and early summer. The river can be directly experienced by canoe and kayak.

Boaters' Advisory: The signage at the USFS Walton Tract is misleading and potentially dangerous for recreational users intending to float down the Cowpasture River. The Cowpasture River below the Walton Tract and above Simpson Creek is private property; the next public take-out point is 16 miles downstream. Unless adventurers set out at dawn, they will surely find themselves on the river in the dark of night. It is recommended, therefore, that canoeists and kayakers enter the river at the northern Walton Tract access point and that they leave the river at the southern Walton Tract egress point.

Location: The USFS GWNF Walton Tract is located approximately 5.5 miles south of Millboro Springs along VA State Route 42 and 1.6 miles west along Grizer's Gap Road (VA Route 632) and then Wallawhatoola Road. River access and the swinging bridge are by way of the northern fork in the road. Four-wheel drive and/or high clearance vehicles are recommended. (No public restrooms.)

Warm Springs Ranger District
U.S. Forest Service
422 Forestry Road
Hot Springs, Virginia 24445
(540) 839-2521

A Northern River Otter as Seen from the
Walton Tract Swinging Bridge.
Photo courtesy of Nan Mahone Wellborn.



Alleghany County Sharon Park & River Access on the Cowpasture River – Sharon Park includes a Cowpasture River boat ramp and access, picnic pavilion, children's playground and picnic tables. The playground and pavilion are rented out seasonally by the Alleghany County Department of Parks and Recreation for the morning, afternoon or the whole day.

The Cowpasture River in this section offers fishing opportunities for muskie, smallmouth bass and sunfish. A float trip from the Sharon Park boat access point south to the USFS GWNF Evans Tract boat ramp is about 6 miles.

Location: Beginning at the intersection of Longdale Furnace Road (VA Route 269) and Nicelytown Road (VA Route 635), drive northeast on Nicelytown Road for two tenths of a mile to the Sharon Park and Boat Access, which is on the right. (Public restrooms available.)



Public Picnic Pavilion at the Sharon Park &
Boat Access on the Cowpasture River
Photo Courtesy of Nan Mahone Wellborn

Alleghany County
Department of Parks and Recreation
9212 Winterberry Avenue, No. B
Covington, Virginia 24426
(540) 863-6622

USFS GWNF Walter L. Robinson River Canoe Access Point (Evans Tract) on the Cowpasture River –

The U.S. Forest Service Evans Tract provides access to Cowpasture River and its adjoining fields and woodland. Grasslands, forested areas, the riparian buff and river banks in this area support a variety of birds, butterflies, and other wildlife species. Departing from the USFS Evans Tract, a 3.2-mile float trip covers remote sections of the Cowpasture River and offers good fishing opportunities. The Cowpasture River eventually joins the Jackson River at Iron Gate to form the James River, and canoeists and kayakers can use the take-out at Glen Wilton on the James. The U.S. Forest Service Evans Tract is built-out with an earthen ramp to the river and a parking lot.

Location: At the intersection of US Route 220 and VA Route 633, proceed east on Route 633 for 2.5 miles. The GWNF Walter L. Robinson River Access Point (Evans Tract) is on the left just after crossing the Cowpasture River. (No public restrooms.)

Country Etiquette – For many of us living along or near the Cowpasture River, our life savings are invested in the special rural place we've created for our families and ourselves. Please respect our right to the quiet enjoyment of our properties.



A Classic Summer Float Trip Down the
Cowpasture River.
Photo Courtesy of the Cowpasture River
Preservation Association (Photographer
Unknown)

James River Ranger District
U.S. Forest Service
810 E Madison Street – A
Covington, Virginia 24426
(540) 962-2214

Atlantic Coast Pipeline Update

By Dick Brooks, CRPA President

Let's continue to hope that this period of minimal ACP activity is the temporary lull before the permanent lull. Construction on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline – except for approved stabilization activities – is still halted. Dominion Energy calls this a voluntary work stoppage, but the courts tell a different story. Many important permits are still outstanding. Here's a recap of permit status:

Army Corps of Engineers	Revoked
US Fish and Wildlife	Stayed
US Forest Service	Vacated
National Park Service	Revoked
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	Challenged
Buckingham Compressor Station	Challenged

And, what are Dominion's stabilization activities? They include surveying, site work, additional trenching, pipe stringing, pipe welding, pipe lowering, backfilling, and even restoration. This last activity is sorely lacking though, and the result has been a number of what ACP calls "slips" like this one in West Virginia.

Of course, we know these as landslides. As spring rains continue into summer, the Alleghany/Blue Ridge Alliance Pipeline Compliance Surveillance Initiative is locating and identifying more of these. Their "pipeline air force" continues its work even as construction is supposedly halted. They estimate that more than 50 of these landslide sites are a direct result of ACP construction activities, and it's mostly in mountainous West Virginia where the bulk of construction has taken place. If pipeline construction starts up in Virginia, we can expect a similar pattern of destruction.



It's not too late to let politicians know what you think about this desecration of private and public property. In Virginia, contact:

Mark Warner
(202) 224-2023

Tim Kaine
(202) 224-4024

If you don't know your representatives, use this link -<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members>

CRPA Annual Summer Picnic & Family Fun Day



SAVE THE DATE!
SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2019

COME JOIN IN THE SUMMER FUN!

3:00—5:00 p.m.	Socialize, games, guided river float
5:30—6:30 p.m.	Cocktail hour
6:30—8:00 p.m.	Picnic dinner

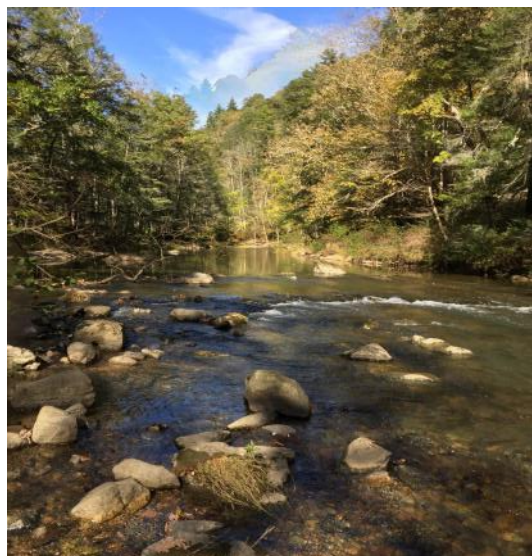
WHERE:

River home of Kit and David Burnett — overlooking the Cowpasture River
438 Cowpasture River Farm Road, Millboro, VA 24460

COST:

- \$10 per person; children 12 and under are free.
- Beverages and meat will be provided by the Association.
- Bring your lawn chairs and a covered dish item. (You will be assigned a category for your covered dish item when you RSVP.)
- You must sign up in advance for the river float.

RSVP Deadline: July 16, 2019



RSVP: Email directorcrpa@gmail.com or call Lynne Griffith, CRPA Executive Assistant, at 540-620-7795.

DIRECTIONS:

From I-64, take Rt. 42 North exactly 6 miles. The sign for Cowpasture River Farm Road is the first left after one passes the “Welcome to Bath County” sign. It will also be the first street sign after crossing the Cowpasture River on Rt. 42 North.

From Rt. 39, drive 10 miles down Rt. 42 South. The Cowpasture River Farm Road is the first right after one passes the Indian Hill Road and Virginia Elks Boys Camp sign. If one passes over the Cowpasture River Bridge, then turn around and go back over the bridge to the first left, which is Cowpasture River Farm Road.



STANDARD
PRESORT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 38
DALEVILLE, VA

Post Office Box 215
Millboro, VA 24460

Protect The Things You Love

Please join us today. The river needs your time, talent and support!
Your donations are tax deductible!

- ☒ \$25 Adult Membership (minimum annual dues per individual)
- ☐ \$1,000 Bedrock Patron Donation
- ☐ \$50 River Guardian Donation
- ☐ Memorial Donation \$ _____
- ☐ \$100 Headwaters Circle Donation
- ☐ in memory of _____
- ☐ \$250 Watershed Steward Donation
- ☐ \$12 Junior Membership Dues
- ☐ \$500 Wallawhatoola Society Donation
- ☐ I am a NEW member!
- ☐ I am RENEWING

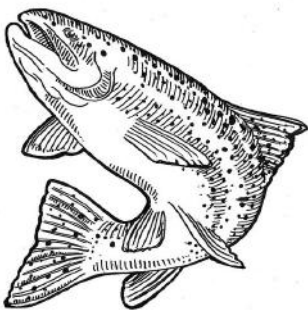
NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY — STATE — ZIP PHONE

E-MAIL: _____

- ☐ I prefer to NOT have my name published as a contributor.
- ☐ Please send my newsletter by email version only.
- ☐ I am interested in becoming a volunteer and/or river monitoring.



(Note: A financial statement is available upon written request from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services — Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs.)