

THE RIVER RUNS

News from the Cowpasture River Preservation Association



Inside This Issue:

- Ø From the President
- Ø Executive Assistant's Corner
- Ø Walton Tract Clean-Up
- Ø Education/Monitoring Committees
- Ø Atlantic Coast Pipeline Update
- Ø Plein Air Festival
- Ø Purple Loosestrife
- Ø 2019 Field Trips
- Ø Remembrances
- Ø Artistic Expressions
- Ø Thank You to our Donors
- Ø Join or Renew Your Membership

This wintry photo of the Cowpasture River was taken by Blair Gilmer Meeks on February 12, 2012. She took the picture from the Gilmer/Wysor swimming hole looking downstream toward the old iron bridge at McKinney Hollow.

Please send us your best photos of the Cowpasture River and the wildlife that accompanies it.

Board of Directors (2018-2019)

Officers:

Richard Brooks, President

Kim Manion, Secretary

Stewart Hobbs, Treasurer

Directors:

Lucius Bracey

Caryl Cowden

Michael Hayslett

Marshall Higgins

Nelson Hoy

Steve Van Lear

Nan Mahone Wellborn

Jeremy White

Staff:

*Lynne Griffith,
Executive Assistant*

Editor: *Lynne Griffith*

Photographer: *Kathy Farmer*

From the President

Why should the fall season be any different from the rest of 2018? Rainfall continues at unprecedented rates. We were 10+ inches over our average annual rainfall by the second week of November. The lower Cowpasture, measured in Clifton Forge, has run near flood stage in both February and April and is well ahead of past years for November. The USGS monitoring station in Williamsville is back up and running after a brief outage, so we can once again monitor the river's upper portion as well. According to reliable sources—long-term residents and the Farmers Almanac alike – we're in for a cold, wet winter.



In this issue of The River Runs, we have a variety of interesting stories. Michael Hayslett discusses purple loosestrife. We have our guide to 2019 field trips. Nan Mahone chronicles the success of Bath County's recent Plein Air Festival, which celebrated the Cowpasture River and our association. And, we've got photos and stories from our education and river monitoring activities as well as a short update on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

We've included brief remembrances of several members we've lost recently. Here you'll find a few words about my friend Bert Carlson. A Bath County neighbor, well respected musician, fellow fisherman, and friend to my entire family, Bert will be sorely missed. He recorded and performed professionally, and entertained at many happy occasions. He also played at the memorial services for each of my parents. Bert always knew the right song. I only wish I had the right words.

Enjoy the upcoming holiday season with family and friends. And pause to remember those we love and those we miss. And remember the river that runs through us all.

Best Regards,
Richard Brooks



Photo by David Burnett



Executive Assistant's Corner

Many thanks to those of you who heeded the call to send in your winter photos of the Cowpasture River. You will see several of those photos displayed throughout this issue, including on our cover page. Since we received so many photos, I will also be posting some of them on our Facebook page, so be sure to check them out. We want our newsletter to reflect your gifts and interests, so when you send me your suggestions, photos, writings, etc., it enables us to show the rich diversity and talents of our association.



In that light, I recently received a poem from one of our new members, Jacob H. Wamsley, II. The poem was actually written by Jacob's sister, Mary Stuart Wamsley. Both of them were born in Millboro and graduated from Millboro High School. She died in early 2003 at the age of 79. Please take a moment to turn to page 14 to learn a bit more about the family and read Mary's published poem, "Along the Wallawhatoola."

Our 2017-2018 Annual Campaign wrapped up on October 31, 2018. The additional donors who contributed to that campaign since the publication of our last newsletter are listed on page 15. Thanks to all of you for your generous contributions which sustain this association. We began our 2018-2019 Annual Campaign on November 1, 2018, and it will run through October 31, 2019.

And a reminder — After reading Michael Hayslett's wonderful essay about the purple loosestrife in this issue, stay tuned for a site map of all of the various locations referred to in the article. It will soon be posted on our Facebook page.

Finally, we are grateful to those of you who continue to come out and participate in the clean-up of the Walton Tract area of the Cowpasture River, which we did on October 27th. The Potomac Hunt Club members, in particular, are ever so faithful in participating in this task, and we are most grateful to them for their consistency.

Walton Tract Clean-Up



Many thanks to Ross Waller (not pictured), Joe Wood, Puggy Farmer, Bucky Wells, Jim Bayliss, Nan Mahone Wellborn, Dick Brooks and Lynne Griffith (not pictured) who came out and picked up trash along the Cowpasture River at the Walton Tract.

Our Education and Monitoring Committees in Action

The CRPA Monitoring and Education Committees provided watershed water quality river labs for the forest ecology students at Dabney S. Lancaster Community College (DSLCC) in Clifton Forge, Virginia, as well as the science students at Boys Home in Covington, Virginia. Kathy Farmer, Dave Peters, Mike Whiteside and Puggy Farmer organized the locations, the food and the instruction. This was the sixth year that the CRPA hosted the forestry students, and it was the fifth river lab the CRPA has provided for Boys Home. 14 college students and 22 Boys Home students were involved.

DSLCC River Lab on the property of Mike Whiteside on September 12, 2018



Photo by Kathy Farmer

Dave Peters teaching about the Cowpasture River and Jackson River watersheds, as well as the impact of forestry practices.



Photo by Kathy Farmer

A group photo of the DSLCC forestry students with Mike Whiteside, Dave Peters and Puggy Farmer in the background.

Boys Home High School River Lab on September 27, 2018



Photo by Kathy Farmer

The high school river lab was held in the classroom due to weather. Puggy Farmer, Dave Peters and Mike Whiteside pose with the students.



Photo by Kathy Farmer

The crayfish, one of the larger macroinvertebrates, tends to get the kids especially excited!

Boys Home Middle School River Lab on the property of Mike Whiteside on September 26, 2018



Photo by Kathy Farmer

Puggy Farmer and Dave Peters gathering the bugs out of the river as the students watch from the shore.



Photo by Kathy Farmer

Mike Whiteside, Dave Peters and Puggy Farmer examining the macroinvertebrates from the river with the students.

FUN TIMES HOSTING THE VALLEY ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

On October 18, 2018, Dave Peters, Puggy Farmer, Mike Whiteside and Dick Brooks worked with the Valley Elementary students at Hot Springs Run, Cascades Creek and Cedar Creek. They had a great time educating the students on the concept of the watershed. By sampling the macroinvertebrates from the three streams, the students learned about stream health and how the streams eventually end up in the Chesapeake Bay, thereby learning more about watershed addresses.



Photo by Dave Peters

Dick Brooks and the students counting bugs.



Photo by Dave Peters

Puggy Farmer at work doing what he loves!

SPECIAL REPORT: ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE UPDATE

By Richard Brooks, CRPA President

The long-running challenges of the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) continue. To date, only tree cutting, both permitted and otherwise, has taken place in Virginia. In West Virginia and North Carolina some of the 42-inch pipe is in the ground, but as of last month only about 30 miles of the proposed 600-mile route is completed.



Failed Water Control Measures

Thomas Farrell, CEO of Dominion Energy, announced to state legislators in South Carolina, that Dominion intends to extend the pipeline into their state "... when that demand will arise...." Dominion is negotiating a merger with SCANA, owner of South Carolina Gas and Electric.

This may be premature however because ACP still needs the air quality permit for the proposed 55,000 horsepower compressor station in Buckingham County. This is the only planned compressor station for Virginia and is needed to maintain pressure to keep the gas flowing. Strong opposition by minority groups, trade unions, environmentalists and people

for "economic justice" spoke out at the Air Pollution Control Board hearings in November, and a decision on the permit has been delayed until December.

Additionally, this month the Army Corps of Engineers offices in Norfolk, Virginia, Wilmington, North Carolina, and Huntington, West Virginia, have suspended their permit for all 1,500 or more water crossings, including the Cowpasture River. During this suspension, no construction through streams or wetlands can take place. This action follows the 4th Circuit Court ruling in September that vacates the permit for construction in the national forests. (This decision was specific to another Virginia pipeline, the Mountain Valley Pipeline, but attorneys for CRPA and other organizations have argued that it holds for the ACP as well.) Finally, the permit to drill under the Appalachian Trail and Blue Ridge Parkway was also found lacking and it too was vacated. At this time, the ACP is not underway on any public lands.

While these decisions are likely to delay the ACP's construction, the action needed to kill the project is underway by the Southern Environmental Law Center, which seeks to rehear the need for the pipeline itself. This case will be heard, but it is still undecided in which court that will take place. Dominion and pipeline proponents hope for the 5th Circuit Court in Washington, DC. We hope to stay with the 4th in Richmond where we've had some success. This case may be heard as early as January, but it's more likely that will happen in May of 2019. Fingers crossed.

(continued)

Our local grassroots organization, Compliance Surveillance Initiative (CSI), continues its important work monitoring the construction of the Mountain Valley and Atlantic Coast pipelines. This initiative of the Alleghany/Blue Ridge Alliance (ABRA), which includes CRPA, dispatches weekly flights of volunteer pilots to photograph every foot of construction— pipeline, access roads, and support facilities—from the first mile in West Virginia to the James River crossing. These photos document whether or not builders are complying with plans and regulations. When we see violations, incident reports are sent to the appropriate governing authority. So far, about two dozen incidents have been filed for the ACP. More than 400 have been filed on the MVP.

Bath County Plein Air Festival

Celebrating the Beauty of the Cowpasture River Valley

Thirty nationally acclaimed artists focused their talents on the Cowpasture River Valley for the 6th annual Bath County Plein Air Festival. During the first week of October, if you were driving around the Cowpasture River from Williamsville to Sharon, you would have seen signs at farms of our CRPA members noting artists were welcome to capture their views and the public was invited to watch. The Farm-to-Table Dinner hosted by the Cowden family at Fort Lewis Lodge featured regional meats and veggies. Camp Mont Shenandoah provided the venue for a BBQ and concert by Cleek Schrey & Friends. Both events offered an exhibition of the artist's work from the day and an opportunity to visit the artists.

Each year the festival chooses a regional not-for-profit organization whose mission contributes to the beauty and growth of Bath County to receive a percentage of the sales from the festival. CRPA was honored to be chosen as the 2018 recipient by festival originator and director, Barbara Buhr, Warm Springs Gallery.



Photo by Nan Mahone Wellborn



Photo by Nan Mahone Wellborn

Alison Menke painting along the Cowpasture River at Fort Lewis Lodge.

Purple Loosestrife — An Attractive Menace

by Michael S. Hayslett, Conservation Biologist

Appearances can be deceiving, and certain flowering vegetation – though lovely to behold – can be a destructive presence when unleashed into the natural world. Purple loosestrife is such a plant.

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is a flowering perennial that originated in Europe and Asia but was introduced long ago to our country. While spreading across parts of North America, it also became a popular ornamental plant. Unfortunately, it easily and readily escapes into the wild and proliferates with devastating effects on wetlands and streams. Parts of New England and Canada now have vast, superficially lovely but homogeneous “seas” of purple loosestrife. There, the native species have been replaced by a monoculture of this smothering plant, turning biologically rich wetlands into “purple deserts” that are depauperate of native biodiversity. Those places are now wilds where the natural functions of those wetlands and stream systems are severely altered and handicapped.

Infestations result in dramatic disruption in water flow in rivers and canals, and a sharp decline in biological diversity as native food and cover plant species, notably cattails, are completely crowded out, and the life cycles of organisms from waterfowl to amphibians to algae are affected. A single plant may produce up to 2.7 million tiny seeds annually. Easily carried by wind and water, the seeds germinate in moist soils after overwintering. The plant can also sprout anew from pieces of root left in the soil or water. Once established, (purple) loosestrife stands are difficult and costly to remove by mechanical and chemical means.

Wikipedia Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lythrum_salicaria

Aside from its incredible seed production, purple loosestrife can also germinate from vegetative parts, which can blow and flow downstream, so mowing this plant makes matters worse. It appears to grow best on our western highlands rivers at the ends of islands and along the shore in slow-moving bends, and it is especially prolific in wet ditches and wet meadows near streams. The plant grows best with ample sunlight.

If planted near streams high up in a watershed, this alien can become an established invader and then spread rapidly down the watershed, carried downstream by seeds and other plant parts.

Close Encounters

My first encounters with this attractive menace were in the 1990s, along the middle James River at locations below Lynchburg and downriver in Buckingham County. From a seven-foot-tall plant I pulled out with my truck bumper at Mount Athos to the choked mitigation marsh in James River State Park, it was evident this purple alien was invading the riverine environs of Virginia that recreational users and nature enthusiasts value for their scenic and natural beauty.

Where the Blue Ridge Parkway crosses the James River at Big Island, I conducted a 2011-2012 inventory and removal study that demonstrated the remarkable density of these plants and how maintenance cutting and mowing of the plant exacerbated the problem. Most revealing, however, was that the nearby CSX railroad right-of-way ditches were full of it, demonstrating how this plant was easily introduced to and quickly distributed along the middle and upper James River floodplains.

During this project, our team of three hand-pulled some 250 purple loosestrife plants from a small (< ½ acre) remnant section of the historic James River & Kanawha Canal on National Park Service land along the river there. Remediation can involve a considerable outlay of effort.

After monitoring purple loosestrife in my home area of the Alleghenies for five summers now, I've become keenly reacquainted with its threat to the native ecology of our headwaters region. As of this writing, there are approximately 24 purple loosestrife locations known in five counties that encompass the headwaters of the James and include the major tributary rivers of the Cowpasture, Jackson, and Maury in our western highlands region. I'm providing a near complete list of infestation sites here to equip our readers with the scope of the problem and for hopeful recruitment of others to help address it.



Photo by Michael Hayslett

Flowering spikes of Purple Loosestrife in the Mill Creek valley of Bath County on July 26, 2018.

With each entry I've provided a brief description of the site location (please visit them) and flowering dates for some of these sites, plus some narrative about the significance of grouped sites. I have attempted to organize the sites in an *upstream to downstream* progression to suggest the possible linkage in distribution within each of the designated drainages (i.e., local watershed).

The Maury River Drainage in Bath and Rockbridge Counties

- 1) Railroad shoulder ditch near the Post Office and opposite the Millboro General Store in Millboro, Bath County (8/7/18)
- 2) Mill Creek at Hotchkiss, west of Panther Gap in Bath County (7/26/18)
- 3) Mill Creek in Goshen, just above Little Calf Pasture River confluence
- 4) Little Calf Pasture River at Mill Creek confluence and VA 746 (7/26/18)
- 5) Railroad side ditch in Goshen beside Little Calf Pasture River and above Goshen Pass

I noted these five purple loosestrife sites for the first time this summer, when I removed one plant from the south-shoulder ditch along US 39, near the east side of the Hotchkiss Prairie preserve. This invasive plant could be a serious threat to the wet meadow in the Mill Creek plain that harbors a globally rare plant community protected by The Nature Conservancy. That would be tragic.

Purple loosestrife has become established in Goshen along lower Mill Creek and thus into the Little Calf Pasture River, where a sizable stand now grows on the west shore – a rock bar by the historic Truss Bridge at State Route 746. Some flowers were still visible here by August 18, 2018. There is also an infested ditch along the railroad line immediately south of this riverside patch (recall the role of railroad ditches in the spread of this invading plant along the upper James River). These sites have the potential to introduce invasive purple loosestrife into the beautiful and popular Maury River gorge (Goshen Pass) just downstream – if, in fact, it is not already there.

The Maury passes through Lexington and feeds the upper James at Glasgow. Years earlier, I had already noted (to my dismay) well-established stands of purple loosestrife along the southern Rockbridge tributaries of the Maury River – Kerrs Creek and Blacks Creek near Collierstown.

The first site on my list, the stand beside the tracks in Millboro, is a concern for our Cowpasture River watershed, as this rail line goes down the Pads Creek valley and into the Cowpasture River valley at Griffith, where the tracks cross the river three times. This Millboro stand could be a source for introduction of purple loosestrife into the Cowpasture via the railroad corridor, even though this infestation site is located within the Cabin Creek to Mill Creek to Little Calf Pasture drainage.

Floating the Cowpasture from the swinging bridge at Griffith and downstream of the Pads Creek confluence during the flowering window for purple loosestrife (July through August) should be a priority for 2019 monitoring of this alien invader.

The Jackson River Drainage in Bath and Highland Counties

- 6) Small creek at Warm Springs Inn, which empties into Warm Springs Run in Bath County (7/19/18)
- 7) Large patch 0.6 miles south of Bluebird Lane on west side of US 220, north of the Bolar Ruritan civic center in Highland County (7/20/18)
- 8) Small patch north of Bluebird Lane, west side of US 220 in Highland County (7/20/18)
- 9) Highland High School outdoor lab on east side of US 220 in Monterey, Highland County (7/20/18)

I noted a new Bath County location for purple loosestrife in Warm Springs this summer, on the grounds of The Inn at Warm Springs, on the southeast side of the intersection of US 220 and 39, in a small creek that feeds into Warm Springs Run nearby. The latter creek (WSR) is a long tributary of the upper Jackson River and is above Lake Moomaw. (The lake likely has the ideal habitat for this invasive plant to become entrenched, if it were to make it downstream that far. Once at the lake, it could be an expensive natural resource management problem for the U. S. Forest Service to face.)

I detected my first Highland County sites this summer on July 20, along US 220 at 2.4 miles north of the Bolar Ruritan civic (community) center. A large stand of purple loosestrife is growing in a wet-field marsh along the west highway shoulder – a seemingly unlikely location to find this non-native, but there it was nonetheless. Another small patch was a bit further north along 220.

These sites are immediately west of the Jackson River and are sources of introduction high up in that watershed. Scenarios like these are most concerning, as they will result in the rapid spread of this alien invasive down the entire course of a major stream.

The Highland High School site is located at the watershed divide between the Jackson and Potomac rivers' headwaters, and it has the potential to spread the plant into both of these upper watersheds. I have informed Ginny Neil, HHS science teacher in charge of the outdoor laboratory adjacent to this new find, and I will assist her next summer in locating and removing these plants.

The Jackson River Drainage in Alleghany County

- 10) Urban location near river along Riverside Drive in Covington (ornamental planting?)
- 11) River edge at Valley Ridge, along Route 1104 (Valley Ridge Road)
- 12) River edges above and at the Low Moor Boat Launch, located along F-205/Irvine Farm Road and SR 9036 (Mountain View Elementary School entrance)



Don't let the smiles fool you... we were dismayed! AHMN chapter members pose on July 22, 2018 by the "attractive menace" of a large Purple Loosestrife infestation along Sharvers Run, a tributary only two miles upstream from the lower Cowpasture River.

- 13) Reported at river edge under the old Route 60 bridge at Clifton Forge western town limits
- 14) Clifftondale Park – 2 sites along VA 632/ Longdale Furnace Road, in ditches at the Clifftondale Country Club
- 15) Clifftondale Park – ditch in front of the former LDS church
- 16) Clifftondale Park – VA 632/Longdale Furnace Road ditches (especially north shoulder, adjacent to the interstate) and VA 632/Golf Course View road ditches as well
- 17) I-64 south shoulder ditch near watershed divide at hill top (7/29/18)
- 18) West shoulder of US 220 in Iron Gate (an ornamental planting only ¼ mile from the river edge and not far above *Head of the James*).

The lower Jackson River valley appears to have the most locations for purple loosestrife in the wild in our region. This is not surprising, given its development history and ample opportunities for the plant to originate as an ornamental – and then to be dispersed along human transportation corridors that lead down the valley from Covington to Clifton Forge. Thus, numerous sites have been observed in this populated Alleghany County river valley, including the Covington location that was reported by CRPA river monitors, Roger and Cynthia Baroody.

I have monitored populations from Valley Ridge down to Clifton Forge and have documented plants on the lower Jackson River along the Valley Ridge residential area, at the Low Moor straightaway near Winterberry Park, and near the Mountain View boat ramp. This summer we also received a tip from a fisherman, who saw the plant below the Scott Hill bridge at Clifton Forge's western entrance.

Alleghany Highlands Master Naturalists (AHMN) volunteers, Hubert Newton and Bob Biersack, assisted me with inventory and removal efforts at the Winterberry Park island and the Mountain View boat ramp during summer 2017. Wading the Jackson, we found and pulled a couple dozen plants via these two public access points; I hope to address the next downstream section (Low Moor to Clifton Forge) next summer. I'm sure there are plants along the lower Jackson in Clifton Forge. I also plan to address that section of the river – inventorying and pulling plants as I float – during July of 2019. I'd love to see our sister watershed organization, the Jackson River Preservation Association, become interested and involved in this regional invasive plant management campaign. We could use agency help too.

The next lowest source of purple loosestrife in the Jackson River watershed is also of concern for the Cowpasture River. Along lower Wilson Creek, just above the Jackson River gorge (Rainbow Gap) in the Clifftondale Park community, there are numerous plants established in roadside/lawn ditches and areas adjacent to that creek. In fact, seven stands have been noted to date. Their size increase was clearly visible from the summer of 2017 to 2018. I suspect these were introduced via the railroad line, which comes down from Millboro – where the plant was also found.

The purple loosestrife stands along VA 632/Longdale Furnace Road (old route 60) in Clifftondale Park are located at the low divide (Longdale Hill) between the waters of the Jackson and Cowpasture rivers, not far upstream from their confluence to form the James. Just east of the Clifftondale Park sites is a large infestation of purple loosestrife along Sharvers Run at the Triangle Market intersection with US 42. This wet field on the north shoulder of VA 632 was covered in purple this past summer (see image at left). Sharvers Run is a short tributary of the Cowpasture, entering just below the Sharon Park public river access point, which is only 2.1 stream miles below this large, entrenched stand of purple loosestrife.

Ironically, there is a large ornamental purple loosestrife plant on the lawn of a property for sale that fronts US 220 in Iron Gate, only a quarter mile from the edge of the Jackson River and about a mile above its confluence with the Cowpasture at the *Head of the James* farm. This is the furthest downstream location presently known in the Jackson River watershed.

The Cowpasture River Drainage in Alleghany County

19) East plain of Sharvers Run at VA 632/US 42 intersection, opposite Highland House Retirement Home near Longdale (7/8/18)

The good news here is that this is the only established site currently known within the vast Cowpasture River watershed. It is, however, the largest infestation we've seen in our headwaters region. This stand, near the Triangle Market gas station, is exceeded in size only by the Eagle Rock site down on the upper James River in Botetourt County (first noted in 2012). That stand and two Gala sites threaten to invade the

VDOT mitigation wetland complex between US 220 and the river. Officials were not aware of this potential problem until appraised by the author in August 2018.

To assess the Sharvers Run situation and its potential to negatively impact the Cowpasture River, CRPA river monitor Mike Whiteside and I floated the river from Sharon Park to the Evans Tract (Steel Bridge) take-out in July. I was greatly relieved to observe that not a single purple loosestrife plant was growing anywhere along the banks or on the instream islands.

Sharvers Run flows just about 2.1 stream miles down to its confluence with the Cowpasture right below the Sharon Park public boat launch. Purple loosestrife could easily make its way down this open stream course to the river. The Bennington Lane stand needs to be addressed, if we don't want to see this alien in the lower Cowpasture. Every time that Bennington Lane bottom is mown (for annual hay), there is a very real risk of spreading the plant downstream to the river via the short tributary of Sharvers Run. And who knows where that cut hay could be transported.

This infestation is too large for a manual or even mechanical remedy. It would likely require convincing the landowner to allow interested conservation parties to attack the stand with herbicide applications. You can see that this scenario will require some help from the agencies.

Where to go from here?

This problem isn't new. A 2004 Chesapeake Bay Program study indicated that purple loosestrife was already found in numerous locations in our headwaters region, but since then little has been done to encourage the local conservation community to become actively involved in addressing this watershed threat. I hope we can change that through a collaboration of like-minded organizations.

As an individual, what can you do? Be on the lookout during purple loosestrife's midsummer flowering time. Its tall, dark purple spikes are usually visible from early July into mid or late August along waterways and wet waysides. Take photos and coordinates, if possible. Pull, bag, and dispose of confirmed plants away from water. Be sure you don't destroy native wildflowers that may be look-alikes. Report any other infestations observed in our area, especially if found growing along the Cowpasture River.

Mark your calendar for the CRPA field trip planned for July 20, 2019. We'll examine known infestation sites of purple loosestrife and demonstrate how to effectively control this watershed invader. We hope that by engaging multiple stakeholders – individuals, organizations and agencies – we can get the ball rolling on identifying and addressing the control of this invasive watershed plant in our headwaters region.

Finally, spread the word. Discourage anyone who might think of using this highly invasive species as an ornamental plant.

Get Involved

If you're interested in helping with inventory and removal efforts in 2019, contact Hubert Newton (newtonh58@gmail.com) or me (Vavernalpools@gmail.com). AHMN volunteers are collaborating with JRPA and CRPA to address this problem. We need folks to float, look for, and help pull any purple loosestrife growing in our headwaters region.

Sources and Additional Reading

<http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/document/fslysa.pdf>

http://www.midatlanticpanel.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/purpleloosestrife_052004.pdf

http://www.seagrant.umn.edu/ais/purpleloosestrife_info

http://www.seagrant.umn.edu/ais/purpleloosestrife_info

2019 Field Trips

- ♦ **Sunday, March 24, 2019 — *Mountain Wetlands of the Cowpasture River Valley***
1:00—5:00 pm — Led by Michael Hayslett, Principal of VA Vernal Pools, LLC

Explore rare mountain wetlands and their fascinating aquatic wildlife. These special habitats are known as “vernal pools” and were featured in the 2016 Spring issue of *The River Runs*. (\$10 per person; limit of 20 people)

- ♦ **Tuesday, May 14, 2019 — *Shale Barrens of the Allegheny Mountains***
9:00 am—1:00 pm — Led by John Townsend, Staff Botanist for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation—Natural Heritage

Shale barrens are unique environments that are endemic to the Allegheny Mountains and harbor some of the state’s rarest plants. Explore these rare habitats and their unique wildflowers at Douthat State Park in Bath County. Pack a picnic lunch. (\$10 per person; limit of 20 people)

Stay tuned for more information regarding a birding trip in June and a tour of the purple loosestrife in July. Registration by email for each field trip will open up 30 days prior to the trip date. Check our website and Facebook page for updates. Questions? Contact directorcrpa@gmail.com.

Remembrances

Garrett Gooch, IV; Ann Howe Billings Hilton; Fred Paxton; Donald McCaig; Bert Carlson

CRPA has lost five members in the past few months. We’ll miss them all.

Garrett Gooch, IV has been a longtime member of both CRPA and Lynchburg Camp. He is survived by his wife, Penny, and son, Garrett. The Gooch family could be counted on to attend nearly all of our events and contribute to their success.

Ann Howe Billings Hilton loved the Cowpasture River. She and her husband, Robert, and son, Kirk, spent as much time as they could on and in it. Faithful members of Lynchburg Camp, their river home is Sitlington, near Nimrod Hall.

Another longtime member, Fred Paxton, also passed on earlier this year. Fred, a Navy Veteran, served on the CRPA board of directors, was a past president and was a keen advocate for the association. He enjoyed spending time at his camp on the Cowpasture River.

We were also sad to learn of the passing of Donald McCaig, such a talented writer who so richly wrote about the rural life in Virginia.

And, we mourn the loss of Bert Carlson, who is survived by his wife, Marian Quinlan. Bert brought music and a remarkable sense of humor to the CRPA. He played guitar at a number of our events, was active in Cowpasture River conservation, and was an enthusiastic supporter of our aesthetic initiative.



Artistic Expressions

New member Jacob H. Wamsley, II shared his deceased sister's poem with us. In 1938, their father built a cabin on the Cowpasture River not far from their home in Millboro. In 1946, he sold the cabin to a Clifton Forge dentist, and the cabin changed hands again afterwards. When Jacob and his son, Jacob Wamsley, III (also a new member) were enjoying a few days at Fort Lewis Lodge in the early 2000s, the younger Jacob put his business card on the door of the cabin with a note, asking for a phone call if the owner ever decided to sell. Ten years later, the widow who owned the cabin called him and he bought it. He and his family love to spend time there and often invite his father to go along with them to convey those nostalgic stories of their lives along the Cowpasture River.

Along the Wallawhatoola

by Mary Stuart Wamsley

What wondrous sights — what gorgeous scenes
Along your jungled banks there must have been
Through these long years!
What Indian tribes have waded through
Your crystal waters, fresh as dew?
Memories dear. Wallawhatoola!

How many sunsets have been dyed
In your waters, so clear, so wide —
How many dawns?
How many deer have stretched their necks
To drink from your cool, refreshing depths,
And speckled fawns, Wallawhatoola!

All along your twisted banks
Are fields that need your breezes damp
For plentiful farms.
You must have mirrored countless harvests
And the colored hues of autumn forests
In Indian summer, smoky warm, Wallawhatoola!

Thus, ever singing your endless song,
You've wound your pebbly way along
Some small spring's daughter
Till you find rest in some silent sea
In your memory again to be
A singing, winding water — Wallawhatoola!

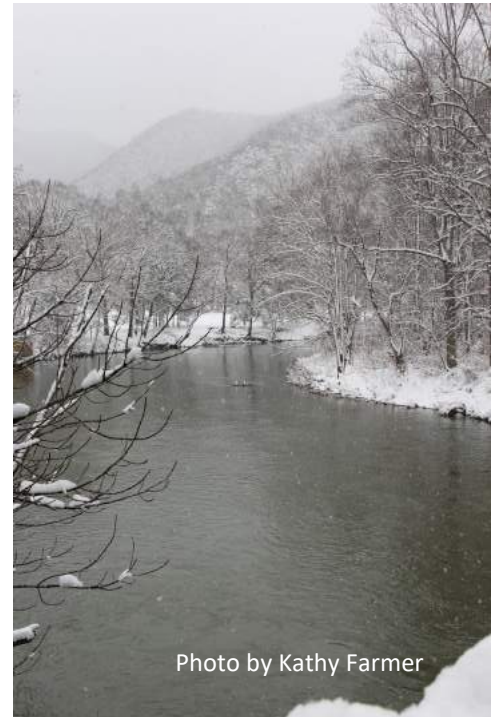


Photo by Kathy Farmer



Photo by Harold Smestad

Thank You To Our Loyal Watershed Members

We are grateful to the additional donations that have come in for the 2017—2018 annual campaign season since our last newsletter was published. These members who have recently joined or renewed their membership are listed below. Thanks to all of you for your generous support. (Note: New members are listed in bold.) **Total donations for the annual campaign came to \$39,365.30.**

Our new 2018—2019 annual campaign kicked off on November 1, 2018 and will run through October 31, 2019.

WATERSHED STEWARDS

William and Susan Frank

Highland Beef Farms

Michael C. Pace

HEADWATERS CIRCLE

Lloyd and Elizabeth Lipscomb

Dave and Sandra Peters

RIVER GUARDIAN

Cody and Stewart Ford

John Randolph Hutcheson

Potomac Hunt Club

INDIVIDUAL

Butler Cave Conservation Society

Candice Dupoise

George & Laura Lipscomb

Dale Martin

Terra Bella Farm

JUNIOR MEMBERS

Katherine Dupoise

IN MEMORY OF:

Fred Paxton

By Mary Anne Dean

Katherine S. Hobbs

By Allan & Rebecca Howerton

Garrett G. Gooch, IV

By Allan & Rebecca Howerton

Ann Howe B. Hilton

By Allan & Rebecca Howerton

Give the Gift of a CRPA Membership



It is the holiday season, and the more members for the association, the better! Think about a gift membership for someone you love who has experienced the Cowpasture during his/her lifetime. It can be a young person who may have been a camper or someone you'd like to introduce to the watershed, or even someone you'd like to be envious of such a treasure. All are welcome and what a great gift! See the last page of this newsletter for details on how to give. Or go online to <https://www.cowpastureriver.org/donate/member-gift>.

CORRECTION

A correction to the "James Spiny-museel (*Pleurobema collina*) Restoration Project" essay in the Fall 2018 newsletter — The genetic analysis DNA studies referred to on Page 7 were actually conducted by Virginia Commonwealth University, not Virginia Tech University.



Post Office Box 215

Millboro, VA 24460

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

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)

☐ \$50 River Guardian Donation

☐ \$100 Headwaters Circle Donation

☐ \$250 Watershed Steward Donation

☐ \$500 Wallawhatoola Society Donation

☐ \$1,000 Bedrock Patron Donation

☐ Memorial Donation \$ _____
in memory of _____

☐ \$12 Junior Membership Dues

☐ I am a NEW member!

☐ I am RENEWING

☐ This is a gift membership from _____

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY — STATE — ZIP

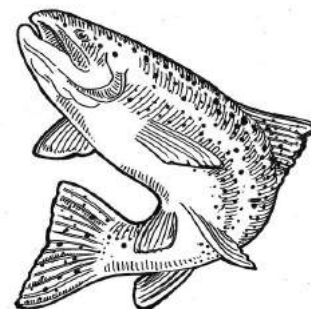
PHONE

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.)