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The River Runs

News from the Cowpasture River Preservation Association

Inside This Issue:

The above photo of the Cowpasture River was taken in the Lynchburg Camp area during the summer of 2019 by CRPA Member Jeff Sullivan.

Please send us your best photos of the Cowpasture River.

From the President

Ah, routine in a pandemic. It's been easy to develop new habits: Wake up. Make coffee. Scan the relentlessly somber news. Worry about the future.

Last Wednesday began this way, but I had an interesting diversion on the Cowpasture River. The PR agency working on Bath County's tourism program had asked for a volunteer, and I raised my hand. They wanted to photograph me casting a fly rod, so it was easy to say yes to spending a morning on the Cowpasture at Fort Lewis Lodge. It felt like a long time since I was last waist-deep in the Cowpasture, fully outfitted in waders and boots and my CRPA hat.

Casting for a photo shoot isn't at all the same as fishing, but it felt good to be on the river on a beautiful morning. Time on the river helped me shake off the gloom that has settled in over the past few months. After all, my family is healthy, I live in one of the world's most beautiful places--Bath County, and, I'm a part of an organization, nearly 50 years old, that is helping make the Cowpasture River watershed better today than it was yesterday (and it was really good then, too).

I needed those tranquil, restorative hours on the river to remind me what matters most--family, neighbors, community, nature. On my list of all the things I love about the Cowpasture, this is certainly number one.

Best Wishes,
Dick Brooks

Executive Assistant's Corner

After sending the spring newsletter off to press back in early March, who would have foreseen that so much would change in such a short period of time? The spring issue contained news of a variety of upcoming events: the annual meeting and summer picnic, as well as a river clean-up and various field trips. There was so much on the docket that we were looking forward to. Normally, at this time of year, I would be writing to you about the great time we all just had at our annual meeting back in May. And although we did have an annual meeting, it was of the virtual variety this year, not face-to-face. But it was still enjoyable to hear the "state of affairs" from CRPA President Dick Brooks, and it was especially nice to see some familiar faces on the computer screen, particularly after not seeing each other for so long. Be sure to read more about the virtual annual meeting on page 4.

That brings us to the annual summer picnic. It looks as if the picnic, which was scheduled for Saturday, July 18, will not take place due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation. We are hoping there might be an opportunity to schedule some alternative events in the late summer and fall where it might be easier to social distance (such as river floats), so stay tuned! And we still have two remaining field trips left that occur in the fall. See the details on page 10.

In the interim, it has been very heartwarming to receive so many memories and photos from our members. I've been sharing many of them via email, Facebook and Instagram, and I will continue to do so. I have also placed some of these photos and memories within this newsletter. Please check them out on pages 5 and 12.

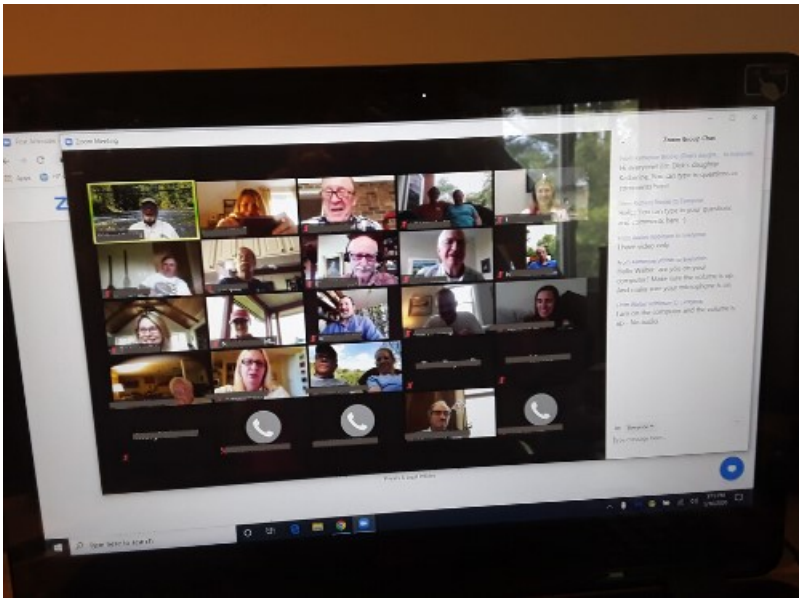
And finally, we are currently scheduled to have a table at the Bath County Fair, which is planned for Saturday, September 19th. If that event does indeed proceed, we hope you will come out and see us there. In the meantime, I hope you're staying safe, and please don't forget to continue sending me your photos and memories of the Cowpasture River to directorcrpa@gmail.com. Thanks!

AESTHETICS VALUES COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Aesthetics Values Committee, chaired by Nan Mahone Wellborn, strives to bring the beauty and joy found in the open spaces of the Cowpasture River Valley and along the banks of the Cowpasture and Bullpasture to our members and beyond. To further these objectives this past year, we agreed to sponsor an award at the Bath County Art Association's "56th Bath County Art Show" for the "*Best Cowpasture or Bullpasture River in Any Medium*." In addition to this outreach effort, discussions were in the works with Garth Newel to run a CRPA focused ad in their annual 2020-2021 program. In response to the Covid-19 virus, both of these organizations are having to rejuggle schedules, postpone events and develop new plans. We look forward to discussing future collaborations and finding ways to make our part of Bath County shine this year and next.

Annual Meeting Highlights

by Lynne Griffith, CRPA Executive Assistant



Our 48th Annual Meeting was held on Saturday afternoon, May 16th. It was our first ever virtual annual meeting, which was held via Zoom. Thirty-three people participated. CRPA President Dick Brooks called the meeting to order and discussed a variety of topics.

Membership continues to grow. We're up to 360 members, which is 29 more than we had last year. Our finances remain strong. We are roughly 10% ahead of last year due in large part to several donations that were made in the memory of a deceased member. Our social media presence continues to grow. In addition to our Facebook page, we now have a presence on Instagram. We also revamped our website this past year. It has a new look and is much easier to maneuver. If you have not already done so, be sure to check it out at www.cowpastureriver.org.

We also have an increased social presence within the community. We have joined all three local Chamber of Commerce organizations — the Bath County Chamber of Commerce, the Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce and the Highland County Chamber of Commerce. In addition, we continue to partner with several other organizations in pursuit of our goals. Unfortunately, some of our activities have been put on hold due to the Covid-19 outbreak, in particular, our water monitoring and educational activities. Even the Izaak Walton Save Our Streams program has been temporarily suspended. We look forward to the time when these activities can safely resume. Thanks to a suggestion from Mike Whiteside, we will be starting to work on a new initiative — the Bill Hardbarger Education Scholarship. You can read more about this initiative on page 15.

Lucius Bracey will be departing the board after 12 faithful years, and we will miss him greatly. Three new incoming board members were voted on, and all three were handily approved to join the board for a three-year term. Caryl Cowden, who owns and operates Fort Lewis Lodge with her husband, John, and who served as the Chair of the Membership Committee last year, returns to the board after taking a year off. Tom Reycraft and his wife, Sera, purchased Buxton Farm in 2017 and have since become active donors and participants in several CRPA activities. Andrew Young has worked for the Allegheny—Blue Ridge Alliance since 2018 and will be heading off to law school in the fall of 2020. He looks forward to assisting CRPA with its conservation, advocacy and community outreach efforts. We are thrilled to have Caryl, Tom and Andrew joining us in our efforts. The meeting was adjourned just shy of an hour from when it started. Although we would have all loved to have been back at the Feedbag at Camp Mont Shenandoah, as we have done in years past, this was a warm and inviting substitute, one we will remember as a sign of the times.

Photos and Memories

Since we have been so restricted in terms of getting together, I sent out a request for photos and memories that we could share with each other. Here are some that came in.

The Van Yahres home in winter near the Walton Tract — Photo courtesy of Peggy Van Yahres

Memory from Marc Koslen

My first and most indelible memory of the Cowpasture River happened over 40 years ago. I lived in West Virginia and was traveling home from a family beach vacation at the Outer Banks. After five long hours on I-64, I decided instead to continue home on the back roads. By the time I reached Windy Cove on Rt.39, I was entirely overwhelmed by the beautiful scenery and exclaimed, "Where in the world am I!" I love to swim in natural bodies of water and just wanted to "jump in" that gorgeous stretch of the Cowpasture. By the time I continued on to Warm Springs, I was able to jump in another of Bath County's magical waters, the Pools. The rest is history, and I am blessed for 23 years now to call this place home!

(Left) Photo courtesy of Norwood Morrison. No explanation needed. You get it!

(Below) Long shot of the Cowpasture River at Crizers Gap — Photo Courtesy of Dale Martin.

Christopher Peters with a walking stick made by Mike Whiteside, August 23, 2014 — Photo courtesy of Dave Peters.

Analyzing the Effects on Stream Hydrology by *Castor Canadensis*

By Robert K. Slusser
Radford University Department of Geospatial Science, 2019

Introduction

Castor canadensis (North American Beaver)

The North American Beaver populations are known for being wetland ecosystem engineers, and such wetlands harbor a biodiverse landscape capable of producing many different species of organisms. Castor Canadensis is a keystone species in such a biome as the North American temperate/boreal forest and creates a wetland habitat for entire ecosystems upstream. Beavers have been roaming this earth for millions of years and are known to have even co-existed with some long extinct animals such as the mastodon. This being said, a reduction in beaver stream engineering could possibly have detrimental effects on the surrounding biosphere integrity. These animals are an intricate component of a healthy, natural North American stream or river, and at times can seem to be somewhat of a nuisance to property owners, as the chordate is also classified as being a rodent in the same family as the Capybara and ground squirrel. However, these creatures on average can exist in rivers for up to spans of 35-50 years (Gorbunova, 2008), so management and monitoring are needed to have the correct implications for both human and beaver activities. Beaver activities usually include an intensive impounding of water behind dams built out of suspended or coarse organic material, causing the stream to back up into its flood plains, allowing for a calm pool of water forming up behind the walls of the dam. Beaver populations use these pools to harbor their young, find food and stay warm, even in the coldest climates, as well as turn a desert into a garden. Beavers have been engineering water for millions of years, forming habitat for hundreds of other creatures. The purpose of this research study is to weigh the pros and cons of a beaver's existence in proximity to human inhabitants and make a conclusion from research on which implications are necessary to manage and monitor beaver activity.

Industrious Engineers

Beaver populations are hydrologic engineers in the fact that they can work together to flood large tracts of land with water. This is done through a process known as Impoundment. Over the course of a year, a beaver population can clear several acres of land, using trees and brush to form dams and lodges. These multi-room structures allow for beaver populations to provide a place for the nursing of young and protection from the weather outside. These mammals use their large front incisors (Figure 1) to

Figure 1. Castor canadensis in the Wilhelma Zoo - Stuttgart, Germany. Image Received from Creative Commons CCO.

chew and gnaw at tree bases, causing tree falling, and have evolved to be the most fit for these activities necessary to build their home (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Beavers impound water, and then stack course material up into what are known as Lodges. (Photo created by Miles Kelly. 2014)

Beavers are found all over the world, often times in mid-latitudinal regions in both the northern and southern hemispheres, and populations across the globe show similar traits of water impoundment in streams and rivers. In a study by the British Ecological Society on beaver population management, scientists looked over the physical, spatial, and temporal aspects of beaver water impoundment to understand the dynamic of beaver-created patches (Snodgrass, 1997. Pg. 1044) in a remote area of South Carolina on the Savannah River. This study asked the question of how different levels of management influence the availability of beaver-created habitats, as well as how the relationships developed in one region apply to other regions located in different parts of the world. After examination, beavers impounded a small proportion of the study area but increased the catchment of water in predominantly second-order streams, as well as streams that were intermittent, meaning they flow irregularly or go through a period of low to no flow. By doing so, beaver-created patches increase the proportion of perennial streams. As beaver activity continues over long periods of time, beaver populations may abandon certain impoundments, allowing for them to drain. The result of this may be the recovery of riparian forest — translating into a negative growth rate of Castor canadensis catchment areas. J.W. Snodgrass writes, “conflicting beaver population management goals should be addressed, evaluated, and balanced,” (Snodgrass, 1997) inferring that some timber will be lost to beaver impoundment, but we should allow for beavers to create habitats that influence biodiversty.

From an economic standpoint, it is possible to estimate the economic value of timber lost, and then weighed against the cost of management, as well as the loss of biological diversity that may result from management (Snodgrass 1997). This way, management systems can be chosen based upon informed decisions to make the best future practices.

The argument of this paper lies within knowing how to manage beaver populations and keep them from being a pest while still allowing for the geomorphic processes done by beavers to proceed as they naturally would occur. At one time, beaver populations ranged from 60 to 400 million and had a geographic range of around 15 million km^2. This was subsequent to decline around the 19th century due to the over harvest of wetland area (Butler, Malanson, 1995). This portrays the argument that beaver conservation should be the paradigm for beaver control, not eradication. Beaver dams are hydrologic structures built by the animal, and serve a purpose that has filtered freshwater streams for millions of years.

> *“Beavers profoundly affect the hydrologic regime of streams by the construction of dams and resulting in step-pool sequences along a stream’s longitudinal course.” (Butler, Malanson, 1995)*

This implies the way that multiple families of beaver along a stream throughout its course serve as a filtration system, allowing for sediment to deposit in the pools before passing through the dam often times at a controlled rate, although at times high-flow waters can hinder beaver dam structural integrity. These dams may also serve as a home for a family of beaver to live within, protecting them from predation as well as the elements.

Other good qualities of the presence of beaver in freshwater streams show over an elapsed time what the process of deposition does to the benthic layer. Streams slow down upon reaching a beaver pond, dropping their sediment to the bottom of the pool. This sediment is rich in organic compounds and can serve as a fertile soil for vegetation. Over time, the ponds eventually fill with sediment and become what is known as a "beaver meadow." These beaver meadows are caused by the infill of these compounds often over the course of a few decades.

Some suggestions of the typical beaver ponds say the deposited sediment tends to be stratified and often dark in color (Dalquest et al., 1990), which corresponds to having a high carbon content. This layer is called the Benthic Nephaloid Layer (BNL) and is created by the deposition of suspended load at the decrease in velocity caused by a beaver dam or lodge. This is one long-term benefit to the conservation management of beaver populations. Although some property owners may think elsewise, the step-pool sequence of beaver dams is an important component to a healthy stream or river ecosystem, allowing for a natural filtration system.

More benefits of this step-pool formation of structures lie within the retention of water over a longitudinal range. Retaining large volumes of water on the land saves water for times of drought. These ponds often expand with age (Butler, Malanson, 1995) and go through a process called "spatial transgression," which causes sediment to be stored at a decreased amount throughout time. The main reason why conservationists protect beaver habitat is for this primary benefit of using a natural geomorphic process to retain water inland for longer periods of time, especially during drought, because farmers will often borrow water from beaver ponds in proximity to farms thanks to the instinct of beaver populations. This is one example of many that shows favor towards the presence of beaver and their hydrologic structures.

A Necessary Pest

In the late 19th century, beaver populations were almost hunted to extinction due to the demand for the species' pelt, and conservation efforts weren't made until the turn of the 20th century to reintroduce beaver populations from endangerment. The reasoning behind beavers as a nuisance lies within the disturbance between the human-wildlife interface (Taylor, Bergman, Nolte, 2009). Damming efforts can be desirable if managed properly, but they create wetlands in places that property owners may not see as needed. The wetlands created by beavers can hinder the structural integrity of certain infrastructure or underground septic tanks, pipelines, etc. by submerging previously dry land. Several tools and techniques are used for the

Figure 3 displays a preventative measure used to keep beaver impoundment at bay (Beaver Solutions).

necessary removal of beaver dams. Some even including the use of explosives to blow up beaver dams because hand removal is a time intensive process that requires the attention of both landowners, as well as trained professionals.

There are some non-lethal ways to the eradication of beaver ponds which include drainage systems, man-made structures to prevent the building of dams or lodges, and, if needed, an electroshock device is used to shock the water in proximity to beaver populations. Either way, sometimes for the benefit of the property owner, the removal of beaver dams are in fact necessary.

As do other rodents, beaver populations can often build structures that negatively change the topography around them, often, at times, overnight, and can rebuild these locations soon after the deconstruction efforts made by humans to prevent beaver infestation. From research, the most ecologically friendly preventative effort is to apply a thin metal fencing around the bottom 3 feet of trees in proximity to beaver habitat (Figure 3.). The reason being is for the individual protection of streamside tree growth which is a catalyst to eliminate erosion on river/stream banks.

Discussion

To manage beaver populations, we must always consider the ecological benefit this animal has on its surroundings. The truth is that sometimes beaver populations are needed more in some places than others. Areas that benefit from the beavers' impounding process include dried stream beds, drought-ridden elevated wetlands and areas of low rainfall that may rely on step-pool sequences to retain water.

Castor canadensis is a keynote species upon which hundreds of other species depend. Whether it be a blue heron feeding off aquatic vertebrates or a wood frog laying an egg sack on the bank of a beaver impoundment, the ecological impact that beaver populations have on the surrounding biome is unprecedented in its use by others. The beavers' geomorphic effects can even be of recreational use for humans. The key to coexisting with this species is to properly manage where beavers can freely inhabit freshwater streams.

In conclusion, I believe that we can "leave it to beaver," allowing *C. Canadensis* to inhabit areas of national or state parks where their impoundments do not negatively affect private property. By doing so, the wetlands used for preservation can remain wetlands — harboring the biodiverse landscape, naturally engineered topography and filtration of nutrients in a step-pool sequence. They will also serve as a form of mitigation where typical wetland land cover was claimed for anthropological (transportation, agriculture, housing, etc.) use.

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Join Us for Our Two Remaining Field Trips — Fall Hikes

Due to the Covid-19 situation, we had to cancel our spring and summer field trips. But we still have two field trips remaining — hikes where we can social distance and still be together for some fun. To RSVP, contact Lynne at directorcrpa@gmail.com, or call 540-620-7795.

Sunday, September 13, 2020 — Nature Observation in the Alleghenies: Skills to Practice Afield. Led by CRPA Board Member Michael Hayslett (9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.) — While enjoying a mountain stroll, we'll discuss natural history and Nature's phenology, wildlife observations, field journaling and more. Be sure to bring a sack lunch. More information will be forthcoming. (Limit of 20 people.)

Saturday, October 3, 2020 — Geology-Focused Hike. Location and time still to be determined. Co-led by Grant Colip (from the United States Geological Survey) and CRPA Member Dave Peters. More information will be forthcoming. (Limit of 20 people.)

Atlantic Coast Pipeline Update

by Dick Brooks, CRPA Board President

The stalled Atlantic Coast Pipeline still remains the single biggest threat to the well-being of the Cowpasture River watershed. Evidence of this abounds in every locale where the project has been underway, which is primarily West Virginia, and in the Mountain Valley Pipeline, which is far more complete in Virginia. Water quality impairments are commonplace. Erosion and sedimentation are customary, affecting endangered and other species alike. Slips (what we used to call landslides) flourish. Sensitive underground karst features are irreparably damaged. The list goes on and on. Now we learn that the pipeline is needed even less than when it was proposed six years ago. Dominion has discontinued plans to build two new gas-fired power plants that were to be powered by the ACP. They now say that the pipeline is needed to ensure our (their?) "energy future," even though it is inconsistent with the Virginia Clean Economy Act. So, what's happened this last quarter?

First, as of early June, we have no decision in the USFS vs Cowpasture River Preservation Association, et al. Supreme Court case, although it was expected in May. (To refresh, this is the permit to tunnel under the Appalachian Trail.) It is one of eight outstanding permits that ACP/ Dominion need to secure to restart construction. Other significant permits include the US Fish and Wildlife biological opinion, which grants incidental take rights to endangered species along the route. The US Army Corps of Engineers permit, the Nationwide 12, is stayed for all projects by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. This effectively halts any waterbody crossings. The air permit for the Buckingham compressor station was vacated in January. The National Park Service permit to cross under the Skyline Drive is still outstanding. And, likely the most important permit of all, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is to be reheard by the 5th Circuit Court this fall. The court may reject the FERC permit altogether in large part because there is no longer any demonstrated need for it. Four years ago, FERC granted the permit based on Dominion's plan to purchase the gas from themselves for the plants mentioned earlier. Now, those plants are not going to be built.

Open trench — Photo courtesy of Compliance Surveillance Initiative (a part of the Allegheny—Blue Ridge Alliance).

Erosion control failure — Photo courtesy of Compliance Surveillance Initiative (a part of the Allegheny—Blue Ridge Alliance.)

It is worth noting that the market worldwide for liquified natural gas has shifted in the past few years. Capacity has grown considerably. In April, Iran brought on-line the South Paris associated gas field that has a capacity of 1 billion cubic meters/day at a very low cost. This is roughly three times the size of the entire Marcellus production--at a fraction of the cost. Additionally, due to both the worldwide pandemic and a warm winter, supplies of LNG are at their highest inventory levels in years. Supertankers are now in use as floating storage tanks as opposed to delivery vehicles. Other inventory remains in the ground.

All of this has us optimistic--but realistic—about stopping this project. The utility companies can still claim *all costs* associated with construction, including legal, lobbying, etc., AND a 15 percent return for their efforts. However, as their costs and other impediments grow, we hope they'll reconsider. Meantime, we'll continue to oppose Dominion's ACP at every turn.

(Left) Sedimentation — Photo courtesy of Compliance Surveillance Initiative (a part of the Allegheny—Blue Ridge Alliance).

A River Memory from Carl Pattison and Rachel Johnson

Some 30 years ago, we decided that it was time to paddle the pristine Cowpasture River, of which we had many wonderful reports. This would be our maiden trip and excitement was high. The put-in is lost to memory, but it was definitely beautiful Bath County. We had our fancy life jackets, our insulated lunch, accessory equipment, first aid box, extra paddles, rain gear, mounted compass and emergency needs. We were PREPARED!

Alas, we chose a warm, late summer day. Those of you with long experience on the Cowpasture can predict what occurred. We launched over pebbles in two inches of water, dragging our lovely Royalex for at least 30 feet, to a small navigable channel near the center of the river. There was not enough side-room to paddle, so we rear-guided down the 60+ meter "causeway." Then it was "drag-time" again for what seemed like 200 meters. But, AHA! Flat, unrippled water for nearly 100 meters, then it was dragging . . . You know. And you know, and YOU KNOW.

After two hours of this insanity, we "poled" over to shore, asked permission to alight, and temporarily abandoned the scraped canoe of our dreams. We refused a ride out of embarrassment and hitchhiked back to our launch area and waiting SUV. Retracing our aquatic journey via dry land, we picked up our beautiful (above waterline) Old Town at its downriver drop-off, waved ruefully at the graciously contented cabin owners and exited the environs of our aquatic debacle, to be known forever afterwards as "the canoe hike."

Virginia Highlands Wood Duck Club 2019 Annual Report

by Arne Peterson

The 2019 breeding season saw a sharp rebound from the small downturn in 2018. Successful boxes jumped from 32 to 47. On the Cowpasture, 10 of 24 boxes had successful nests, up from five the previous year. Nest failures dropped almost in half, and egg dumping was averted for the second year in a row. Use by nest competitors was also down by both starlings and screech owls. Use of tinted tops, where competitors were rife, was a major reason. In the last three years, we have gained access to some excellent habitat. Much of this habitat is on public land. We have signed Volunteer Service Agreements with three National Forest ranger districts and the state of Virginia for this access. Cooperation has been excellent, and we hope to gradually expand this aspect of the wood duck trail. Many thanks to all of the property owners who have made this project possible.

(Left) Arne Peterson with one of his duck boxes on the Cowpasture River at Lynchburg Camp with camp representative, Jeff Mayes. (Photo courtesy of J.F. Brown.)

	Total Boxes = 138
Successful Nest	47/34%
-Unhatched Eggs	21/Avg .45 per box
Nest Failure	6
- Total Eggs	20/avg 3.3. per box
No Duck Activity	85/61%
Egg Dumping	0
Used by Owls	27/20%
Owls in Box	13
— Red Phase	7
— Gray Phase	6

Thank you to our departing board member, Lucius Bracey.

Lucius Bracey's term on the board is up this year. He has served us for literally a quarter of our entire existence as an association — 12 years in separate terms. His introduction to the Cowpasture occurred around 1950 when he attended Camp Nimrod for boys. After that memorable experience, he was drawn back to the Cowpasture as an adult. He and his wife, Pam, visited many times over the years, and finally in 2000, they purchased their property along the river. Soon after, Amanda McGuire invited Lucius and Pam to attend an annual CRPA gathering at the Fairview Community Center, and they joined on the spot. Since then, they have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the CRPA and supporting its mission. Pam served on the board, and Lucius followed when her term ended. Lucius has given CRPA a steady hand, solid advice and has helped to make our organization what it is today. Many thanks to you, Lucius. We will miss you.

"The Cowpasture is precious to Pam and me. The water quality is one of the best in the country. We trust that successors will carry on the river's protection." — Lucius Bracey

In Memory of Bill Hardbarger and Gilbert Ramey

Bill Hardbarger was our expert griller at the CRPA summer picnic in 2016.

Many of you sent in donations in memory of longtime CRPA member Bill Hardbarger, who passed away on March 12, 2020. Bill was a beloved part of the CRPA community and served on the board for several years. Russ and Norma Lowry sent in their memories of Bill, which we would like to share with all of you.

"He [Bill] spent many years supporting and working with the Cowpasture River Association to protect and care for the lives that he loved. Bill lived most of his life within view of the Cowpasture. As a boy, he learned to swim and fish in the river. He built his first and only home next to the river where he, in turn, taught his own kids to siwm and fish. He farmed, hunted, and gardened within sight of the Cowpasture his entire adult life. He took many a bath in the river, usually after a hot, sweaty day in the hayfield. Bill researched and shared his findings about the King's Grant, navigability, and river bed ownership. He was a fierce defender of ownership rights, but at the same time encouraged friends and family to fish, float and the enjoy the most pristine river in the U.S.

Bill loved the Cowpasture more than anyone I ever knew. He love the "Blue Hole" and the "Riffles." He loved watching his grandkids jump in and squeal. My last glimpse of Bill out on the farm was him riding on this tractor headed down to check out the river. May there be a Cowpasture River in heaven that Bill can take care of. I hope he gets to swim and fish a lot while he's waiting for Christie. — Sincerely, Russ and Norma Lowry

Gilbert Lee Ramey, age 76, passed away peacefully on April 13, 2020 in Manassas, Virginia. He was born on November 4, 1943 in Grundy, Virginia, and he grew up there until he entered the Air Force following high school. Gilbert was proud to be an American veteran. After the Air Force, Gilbert dedicated the next 31 years of his life to the City of Alexandria Fire Department as a professional firefighter. Upon retiring, he found joy in being an active member of the Arlington-Fairfax Izaak Walton Chapter. For the past 16 years, he enjoyed volunteering his time at Izaak Walton and going daily to visit with his friends. Gilbert's favorite past times were fishing, hunting, and spending time with his family and friends. He was a member of the Potomac Hunt Club since 1996. He looked forward to hunting squirrels on Lime Kiln Road and Beards Mountain and catching trout at Hidden Valley and Poor Farm. He also loved to sit on the porch and tell stories. His witticisms are legendary. He was a supporter of the CRPA and looked forward to the Walton Tract cleanups.

"Gilbert will be dearly missed and will always be remembered for his friendly disposition and wonderful sense of humor. He was a kind, genuine person who was always willing to lend a helping hand and always with a smile on his face." — Bucky Wells, Potomac Hunt Club and CRPA Member

A Request for Auction Items

The Bill Hardbarger Education Scholarship Fund

In an effort to carry on Bill Hardbarger's passion for river education to students of all ages, Michael Whiteside suggested we create a Bill Hardberger Education Scholarship Fund. To kickstart the fund, Mike donated two items that we will auction off sometime this summer via an online auction. **We would also like for other people to contribute additional auction items to support this fund.** If you would be interested in doing so, please contact Lynne at 540-620-7795 or at directorcrpa@gmail.com. More information will be forthcoming.

Orvis Fly Rod

The rod is an Orvis T3, 908, 4 piece, tip flex graphite fly rod in very good condition. It is 9' long for 8 weight line. Made to throw big flies to big fish on big rivers where long casts are common. Mike bought it at a Coastal Conservation Association Dinner in Venice, Florida, at a silent auction. Rod has a fighting butt, a spiral reel seat, and is dark blue. It is very attractive with only very minor scuffs. Mike was planning to set it up with weight forward 8 weight line to use for bull trout and salmon. Mike would help to set it up if you should need assistance.

Fly Butt Pack

The pack is a Simms waterproof 12x8x5. There are two small pockets on the strap and two zipped pouches on the front with zipped top access. Has removable padded interior with pockets and dividers. It was purchased new from Murrays Fly Shop in Edinburg, VA. It has never been used.

CRPA
Cowpasture River Preservation Assn.

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Please join us today. The river needs your time, talent and support!

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❒ *$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

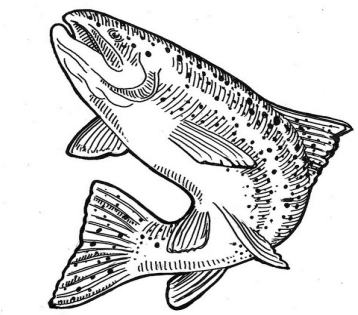
NAME(S): _____

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.)