

# THE RIVER RUNS

News from the Cowpasture River Preservation Association



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Photo taken ten years ago from the Pasco property looking north toward Old Camp Road (formerly known as Wallawhatoola). Photo taken by Robert Pasco.

*(Please send us your best photos of the Cowpasture River and the surrounding wildlife.)*



## Board of Directors (2021-2022)

### Officers:

*Elizabeth Dudley, President*

*Norwood Morrison, Treasurer*

*Kim Manion, Secretary*

### Directors:

*Richard Brooks*

*David Burnett*

*Linda Cauley*

*Margo Clegg*

*Caryl Cowden*

*Michael Hayslett*

*Tom Reycraft*

*Catherine Roland*

*Ross Waller*

*Nan Mahone Wellborn*

*Andrew Young*

### Staff:

*Lynne Griffith,  
Executive Assistant*

**Editor:** *Lynne Griffith*

## From the President

I always take the dogs out at night just before bedtime. One night a couple of weeks ago, upon stepping outside, I heard the rushing sound of the river going over the dam and through the ripples downstream. This is an unusual occurrence, as the river is some distance from the house. I knew the river was not flooding, so my guess was that it had something to do with the combination of temperature, wind, and perhaps barometric pressure. It was such a pleasant sound, yet it brought up feelings of great sadness as I realized how tragic it was that the people of Ukraine were hearing the sounds of war while I was enjoying these sounds of the river. Once again, I was reminded of my good fortune, living beside this wonderful river and even more grateful for the 50 years of protection the CRPA has provided.



This year we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the CRPA in a variety of ways. Many of you have been sending in photos and stories that we plan to share with our members at the annual meeting as well as including a few in the newsletters. We are acknowledging the history of the CRPA, and in this issue of The River Runs, cover the years from 1982 to 1995. We are also planning to offer a number of river floats this summer, so stay tuned and please keep your fingers crossed for plenty of rain.

I hope you all enjoy the stories in this issue – one about a significant “blind date” on the Cowpasture River, another about the development of a fisherman, and lastly, even one about the “creature” found living in a deep hole of dark, cold water!

I enthusiastically encourage you all to participate in the variety of activities offered this year. Fifty years of preserving the river we love is a remarkable achievement and worthy of special celebration.

Elizabeth Dudley



## Executive Assistant's Corner

We are thrilled to be holding our annual meeting in person this year. For the past two years, we have held the meeting virtually via Zoom due to Covid concerns. But this year, we will finally get to see each other again in person. We'll be able to visit over the cocktail hour, share a meal together, vote in a new board member, listen to an interesting presentation by conservation photographer Steven Johnson, and hear the latest updates about what has been going on in CRPA during the past year, as well as finding out where we are headed in the coming year. Many thanks to Ann Warner who has once again graciously offered to host this event at Camp Mont Shenandoah.



Since this is CRPA's 50th Anniversary year, we have convened a special committee to come up with new 50th anniversary t-shirts and mugs. CRPA member Peggy Terrell drew an original piece of artwork for the t-shirts, and we think you will be pleased at how beautifully they turned out. The shirts will be available for sale at the annual meeting, and they will also be available in our online store. We look forward to having both the t-shirts and mugs in stock no later than mid-May, so stay tuned!

Please take a moment to check out the special anniversary events on Page 13. Dr. Annette Naber is offering up two unique events for our members — backyard foraging and forest bathing. You can sign up online via our website. Other events to look forward to are summer river floats being planned by our river float committee. We will update you as more of these details get hammered out.

To cap off the summer, we are also pleased that Ann Warner has offered up Camp Mont Shenandoah as the venue for our summer picnic and "Family Fun Day" which will be held on Saturday, August 27, 2022. Ann has some great ideas as to how to make it a fun day for all. She will contribute the hamburgers and hot dogs for the grill, and we will be asking everyone else to bring a side dish to share. More information will be forthcoming in the summer newsletter. We hope you will be able to come out for as many of these activities as possible. We have truly missed you!

### SAVE THE DATES!

**Saturday, April 16, 2022 — Walton Tract Clean-Up** (see Page 4 for further details)

**Saturday, May 21, 2022 — Annual Meeting and Dinner at Camp Mont Shenandoah** (see Page 14 for further details)

**Saturday, August 27, 2022 — Summer Picnic and Family Fun Day at Camp Mont Shenandoah**

**Correction to the Winter 2022 Newsletter** — On the "Education and Monitoring Committee Update" page (Page 7), the photos were taken by Marla Whiteside and Scott Reigel, not Kathy Farmer. My apologies for the error.



## Spring on the Cowpasture River | An Artist Retreat



In conjunction with Fort Lewis Lodge and Farm, CRPA is excited to once again co-sponsor “Spring on the Cowpasture River | An Artist Retreat” for the second year in a row. The event will take place at Fort Lewis Lodge and Farm on May 8-11, 2022. Thirty artists have signed on to participate in this multi-day, plein air event.

On Sunday, there will be a social hour to welcome all of the artists and allow them to mingle with each other over a glass of wine or beer in the Pavilion. On Monday and Tuesday, a farm-fresh lunch and beverages will be provided

for pickup in the Mill so that the artists can work throughout the day without interruption. On Tuesday evening, the artists will gather in the Pavilion for an informal critique where they will have the opportunity to review and discuss a work that each of them created during the retreat. Finally, on Wednesday, May 11, there will be an opportunity for the artists to display and sell their work in the Pavilion from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The general public from the surrounding area is invited to come peruse and purchase the various artwork. Lite bites and beverages will be served.

CRPA is thrilled that 25 of the artists who registered for the retreat either became new members of CRPA or renewed their memberships from last year. Welcome to all of you! And many thanks to Nan Mahone Wellborn, Caryl Cowden and Erin Cowden for organizing this wonderful event which has now become a yearly tradition.



April 2018 Walton Tract clean-up crew.

### JOIN US FOR OUR SPRING RIVER CLEAN-UP AT THE WALTON TRACT

**Saturday, April 16, 2022 — 1:00—3:00 pm**

Please help us collect litter along the Cowpasture River at our adopted site in the national forest. Volunteers will meet at the Walton Tract lower public access point (“rope swing”). To sign up, email Lynne Griffith at [directorcrpa@gmail.com](mailto:directorcrpa@gmail.com) or call 540-620-7795. Details will be provided upon your RSVP.

## My Cowpasture — A Memory from David Van Lear



The Cowpasture River in front of our cabin where I caught my first large smallmouth bass, a three pounder, in 1952.

The Cowpasture River helped shape my life. When I was 12 years old, my dad built a cabin for our family on a two-acre lot beside the river, a lot that he bought from a farmer named Charlie Nicely. It was about a mile downstream from Sharon Church. We lived in that cabin from early June through late fall when cold weather drove us back to Clifton Forge where my dad owned and operated a small grocery store. I fished and swam in the river almost every day.

The beauty and tranquility of the river instilled in me a love of nature that led me to Yellowstone National Park when I graduated high school. With the beauty of the

Cowpasture and the wonders of Yellowstone running deep in my veins, it was no wonder I chose forestry as my life's work. Without the Cowpasture, I don't know what would have become of my life.

The Cowpasture River is a treasure, and I am proud to be a member of CRPA as it strives to protect the river for future generations.

## Turning Points in the Life of a Fisherman

From David Van Lear – *I have just published a Kindle book on Amazon titled "Turning Points in the Life of a Fisherman." Briefly, it is about how fishing opportunities helped shape the course of my life, from a young hillbilly in the Allegheny Mountains to a chaired professor at Clemson University. It all started on the Cowpasture River when I was 12 and has lasted through 81 years of my life. It is a story of joy, happiness, sadness, and adventure, in which a "positive" addiction to fishing and especially fly fishing helped carry me through the good times and the bad times. I think many of us who love the Cowpasture would enjoy the story. If anyone is interested in buying the book, it is available on Amazon for \$5.99.*

(Right) Photo courtesy of Robert Pasco.





## The 50th Anniversary Series

### More Awareness of the Watershed: 1982—1995

*As part of our 50th Anniversary series, we begin the second installment of our four-part history of CRPA. In this issue, we cover the time period beginning in 1982 and up to 1995.*

**December 6, 1982 — Newsletter:** Kirk Lunsford, Association President, reports on the Forest Service's Heckman's Draft Roadway Project.

**April 7, 1983 — Newsletter:** U.S. Circuit Court issues decision on the Jackson River navigability. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries discontinues stocking trout at the Forest Service's Walton Tract; the water becomes too warm in summer. The Rough Mountain Wilderness Area proposal is on hold for two years to allow for a study of air quality in the area.

**April 29, 1983 — Annual Meeting:** Dr. Jesse C. Thompson, Chairman of the Biology Department of Roanoke College, to speak.

**January 1986 — Newsletter:** C.P. Nair died; he had represented Alleghany County on the board from the very beginning. Bill Jeavons was elected by the directors to fill Mr. Nair's unexpired term. The high water of the 4th and 5th of November 1985 was a record breaking flood. Other notable floods of the Cowpasture River were in 1936 and 1913.

**April 1986 — Newsletter:** Jim Loesel of The Conservation Council of Virginia and of The Citizens Task Force to speak at the May 10th Annual Meeting at Fairview.

**December 1986 — Newsletter:** The "end of summer" picnic was held at Lynchburg Camp. The dinner was catered by Nina Ray and featured roast pig.

**March 18, 1987:** A letter was sent to the membership by President Bill Jeavons outlining the CRPA's support of the appeal against the final Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the George Washington National Forest. The appellants include the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Virginia Wilderness Committee, the Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club.

**May 9, 1987 — Annual Meeting:** Annual Meeting at Fairview with a talk by Wayne Kelley, Supervisor of the George Washington National Forest.

**November 10, 1987 — Newsletter:** The death of George Brown Venable, one of the founding directors and the second president of the association, was noted with sadness. Bill Hardbarger was elected to fill the unexpired term. The Forest Service Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the George Washington National Forest (GWNF) have been approved. An application to operate a quarry off the Pig Run Road was withdrawn by the applicant. The association was on record as opposing the opening of the quarry.

**February 1988 — News Notes:** Article III of the bylaws were amended to limit the directors to two consecutive (3-year) terms. After one year out of office, a candidate may stand for election again.

**May 21, 1988 — Annual Meeting:** Annual Meeting at Fairview features a talk on the “Save the Bay” program of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and a critique of the Forest Service Management Plan by Jim Loesel.

**December 1988 — Newsletter:** Newsletter discusses clearcutting in the George Washington National Forest.

**February 1989 — Newsletter:** CRPA contributes \$1,000 to Jim Loesel’s Citizen Task Force.

**April 8, 1989 — Newsletter:** The annual meeting was held on April 29, 1989 at Fairview. Ed Walters outlines the Forest Service plans for the Rough Mountain Wilderness Area. Hugh Gwinn speaks on the history of the settlement of the Cowpasture River Valley.

**Summer 1989 — Newsletter:** The CRPA and the Forest Service come to an agreement over the management of the Walton Tract canoe launch and takeout area.

**May 1, 1990 — Annual Meeting:** Michael Lipford of Virginia Department of Natural Heritage spoke on unique species.

**June 23, 1990 — Board Meeting:** Discussion of the Virginia Scenic Rivers program and questions raised about the Federal Wild and Scenic River Act (especially with regard to provisions for private ownership.) The Forest Service scoping notice for the Blue Grass Timber Sale was discussed.

**September 10, 1990 — Board Meeting:** Board meeting at Dabney Lancaster Community College with a discussion of the current scoping notices from the Forest Service.

**December 3, 1990 —** The Virginia DCR awards the CRPA (Bill Hardbarger, President) a first place (winner) in the 1990 Virginia Take Pride in America Program. The board reviewed the Alternative Themes submitted by the Interdisciplinary Team in the (Forest Service) document dated November 5, 1990.

**December 3, 1990 — Board Meeting:** Discuss the “Alternative Themes” in the Forest Service Management Plan.

**February 1991 — Newsletter:** The CRPA Directors’ Alternative Theme for the GWNF Management Plan: “The objective of this alternative theme is to provide designated areas of unfragmented forest and a large increase of wilderness.”

**March 4, 1991 — Board Meeting:** The association donated \$100 to the Conservation Council of Virginia.

**Spring 2022**

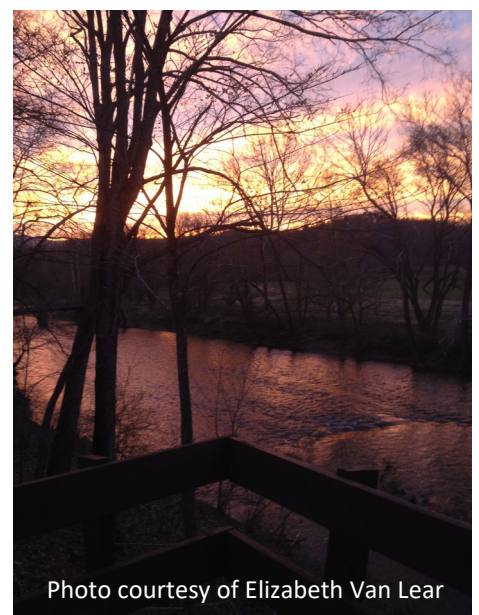


Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Van Lear

“The Magic Hour” from the deck of the Van Lear house.

**April 1991 — Newsletter:** “We Love Our Cowpasture” t-shirts are now on sale. Fantastic gift for the whole family! Rosemary Moneymaker Sutton and her husband, Dick Sutton, of Summersville, South Carolina designed and have graciously made available (the design of) the Cowpasture River t-shirts.

**May 4, 1991 — Annual Meeting:** Annual meeting held at Fairview. Ed Walters reminded us that our organization will be 20 years old in January (1992). Chris Canuto, author and professor at Washington and Lee, presented a tutorial on Acid Rain. Afterwards, there was a lively discussion as there were many experts in attendance.

**June 24, 1991 — Board Meeting:** At Dabney Lancaster Community College to discuss scoping issues.

**December 5, 1991 — Board Meeting:** In response to a complaint about a local contractor cleaning hydro-seeding equipment in the river, it was decided to contact VDOT with regard to VDOT standards for their contractors. There was a report of a fish kill on Simpson Creek; there had been little response from the agencies that had been contracted. A concerned citizen was storing some of the dead fish in her freezer hoping that they might be of use in diagnosing the problem. Kirk Lunsford resigned for reasons of poor health, and Terry King was elected to fill the unexpired term.

**March 12, 1992 — Board Meeting:** Some members have been critical of the board’s contacting VDOT in connection with the issue of cleaning hydro-seeding equipment in the river, feeling that the contractor should have been contacted first. We lost the support of a few members because of this. A \$200 donation was made to the West Virginia Rivers Coalition in support of their conservation efforts.

**April 22, 1992 — Newsletter:** Annual meeting is scheduled for May 30, 1992 with William Ellis, Esq. speaking on riparian land rights.

**April 1993 — Newsletter:** The 21st Annual Business and Dinner Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 1, 1993 . . . Our guest speaker is Roland B. Geddes, a nationally recognized natural resources manager.

**August 1993 — Newsletter:** Board to study “Exceptional Waters” Designation. Some 30 streams, as of mid-August, have already been nominated for the classification of exceptional waters (or Tier III in



Photo courtesy of Joseph M. Seiffert

the language of water quality regulations). Bill Hardbarger, as well as Delegate Creigh Deeds and Bath County Supervisor Harper Wagner, took part in a recent seminar sponsored by the Water Division of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The meeting was held to explain Virginia’s present anti-degradation policy and what a Tier III designation would mean.

“Simply stated,” DEQ Water Division Robert G. Burnley has written, “this means that upon designation (as Tier III), the DEQ would be prohibited from issuing a permit

Fog on the river at Lynchburg Camp (7-12-2009)



for any new industrial or municipal discharge as well as for any increase of an existing industrial or municipal discharge.” The possibility of such tough and rigid protective measures in place to preserve water-quality standards in various of the already-nominated streams has provoked opposition among those concerned about industrial and economic development. . .

**February 1994 — Newsletter:** The majority of the Board of Directors voted, with one abstention, to send a draft nomination for Tier III designation of the Cowpasture River in its entirety and the Bullpasture Gorge to the Department of Environmental Quality, Water Resources Division. A response was received January 25, 1994 concerning our original draft nomination. Further modifications will be needed in the original draft such as: verification of the techniques and standards used to determine what makes the Cowpasture River and the Bullpasture Gorge so exceptional; further classification of the boundaries was requested; and, also, more documentation of the recreational uses.” Mrs. Jean Gregory and Mr. Robert G. Burnley have been invited to speak at the annual meeting on May 7, 1994.

**May 7, 1994 — Annual Meeting:** With the show of hands at the Annual Dinner/Business Meeting, the members overwhelmingly agreed with the nomination of the Cowpasture River for Tier III status. Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Steve Adams, Dave Peters and volunteers from Virginia Tech, the second draft of the proposed submission for consideration of the Cowpasure as “exceptional aquatic community” will be ready in a couple of weeks. The 1994 membership is now at 307. *(Apparently this early nomination for the Cowpasture River was never submitted to the DEQ.)*



Lynchburg Camp river race (2015) to commemorate the camp's 100 year anniversary. The race started at the Watts' river dock, went down to the swinging bridge and then back to the dock again. Photo courtesy of Tom Watts.



Landon and Tucker, the Irish Setters who belong to Robert Pasco, are taking in the river view from the Lancaster / Pasco dock. Lexi, their Brittany, is in the water. Photo taken in 2020, courtesy of Robert Pasco.

# Cowpasture River Memories Throughout the Years

*by Dick Lynn, with input from Glovie Lynn — 2022*

My first memories of the Cowpasture River were in the 40s after WWII when our family, along with the Charles and Kirk Lunsford families from Roanoke, spent our summer vacation at Nimrod Hall. Nimrod was owned by Frank and Mae Wood. Their daughters, Sarah (Davis) and Frankie (Apistolis), would entertain us with horse rides, swimming in the river, roasting marshmallows after dinner, etc. I was in heaven. They served great food and plenty of it, and we even “helped” Scott milk the cows. Later, when I was 12 or 13, I stayed by myself at Nimrod for an extra week and, with Read Lunsford, helped with chores like helping Frank slaughter chickens.

In 1950, my parents, Bob and Virginia Lynn, bought 6 1/2 acres down river at the Lawrence Place, or Pot Springs. They tore down the old falling down house and had Frank Murray build a prefab summer cabin. We spent a lot of time at the cabin, and I spent most of my time in or on the river, primarily fishing. We used live bait in those days; I became quite proficient at catching hellgrammites, mad toms (cat minnows) and occasionally lizards. We caught bass, redeyes, perch, fallfish and sometimes pike (chain pickerel). Again, I was in heaven.

Springing forward to early April of 1970. I am now out of college, have spent two years active duty in the Naval Reserve and am working. I was a member of a men’s club in Roanoke, and we were having a party at The Homestead. I didn’t have a date, so a friend fixed me up with his girlfriend’s friend who was a senior, getting ready to graduate from Hollins College. We would be staying at the cabin with two other couples, and my date, who was from California, had visions of a mountain house such as she had visited at Lake Tahoe. She was in for a surprise. The hot water had not been turned on, the cabin was winter dirty and was overrun with mice and other critters. We went to the party and had a grand time. The next day, we floated the river from Nimrod back to our cabin. I’m not sure what she thought of me, but she loved the river, and a few months later, Glovie and I were married.

Now 52 years later, we have replaced the old cabin with a house that we’ve added to and remodeled to accommodate the generations of family that gather on the Cowpasture year after year. A distinctive feature of our days on the river have been our river lunches. We began with soggy tomato sandwiches or beanie wienies, sardines and Vienna sausages, moving on to hot dogs over an open campfire; the young kids did not take to those soggy sandwiches. As the kids got older, our river lunches got even more elegant with fried sun perch, watermelon and tubes. Those were fun days spending hours on the river. None of the family bothers with the lunch production anymore, and they seem to spend less time on the river now that there are so many “river toys,” but what they love is the



Photo by Julia Lynn



afternoon cruise, especially with their aging parents back at the cabin working on dinner and enjoying a cocktail on the rocking porch. A larger house and family has only made the river all the more special, as it has been a gathering spot for the Lynn family since 1950.

Over my 80 plus years, I have floated the river a few hundred times, and each time I am impressed, once again, with the beauty of the river and the wildlife, deer, bear, turkeys, beavers, otters, eagles, osprey, herons and a variety of ducks. Thank you CRPA for protecting the pristine waters and view shed of the Cowpasture River.

### **Creature of the Deep**

*by Tucker Carrington — Current Camp Parent at Camp Mont Shenandoah &  
Son of Former Camp Mont Shenandoah Owners, Bill and Mary Glenn Carrington*

Mont Shenandoah is located beside one of the deepest and broadest pools of the entire Cowpasture River. Anyone who's ever been swimming there — even in the scorching heat of a summer day — will attest to the bracing temperatures. The farther out one swims — out to the idle, say — and especially the closer one gets to the area of shade created by the floating raft, the water is cooler still. Pure heaven, one thinks!

But have you ever thought about what else might also enjoy such bliss? Not snakes or turtles or lizards; they like the sun. Some other creature, perhaps? Something more primeval, mysterious, even mythic?

In the mid-to-late 1970s, word began to spread about a fish. Not just any kind of fish, but a giant one. With teeth. Lots of them. There was one report of a guest fisherman pulling one out of the Camp Mont Shenandoah swimming hole, though there was no photographic record. Then, one calm evening during a camping session, Bill and Mary Glenn Carrington decided to go fishing from a canoe. Bill hooked something — a snag, he thought, until the snag surfaced, swam under the canoe, and nearly flipped it before the line broke. Whatever it was, it was huge and powerful. And elusive.

And then came the early summer of 1978. Campers had yet to arrive, and a few invited family friends of the Carringtons had appeared for a weekend of fun and relaxation. And the weekend was, indeed, both fun and relaxing. . . until two young teenagers decided to take a canoe out and do a little fishing. They, too, thought they had snagged their line. As they worked to free it, the thing surfaced beside them, roughly a third the size of the canoe itself. They called for help. Several friends came down to the river, one with a fishing net. After an hour, they were able to coax the creature into shallow water downstream near the island where the river splits, but after they got it into the net and tried to lift it, it chomped its way through. It then flipped the canoe. Finally, a contraption made of chicken wire was deployed, and the creature, exhausted after three hours of fighting, was captured. The verdict? A state-record muskellunge, Latin name for *Esox masquinongy*, “muskie” for short.



Muskellunge/Muskie (*Esox masquinongy*)

Put differently, the "top freshwater predator of North America" and "perhaps the continent's most elusive gamefish."

The fish weighed 17 pounds and measured 41 inches. The lucky anglers eventually had it mounted, but for the rest of that weekend stored it on a metal tray in the Feedbag's big stainless steel refrigerator. The tale was recounted the following weekend in a breathless — and funny — article in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* sports section (see below).

For several years, a group of muskies, though none as big as the one caught that summer afternoon, gathered under the raft. If you swam down far enough, you could see them there — nearly motionless, ancient. And then they were gone. Speculation was rampant about how these fish, native to the cool waters of the Great Lakes, were introduced to the Cowpasture in the first place. Did someone's pet muskie outgrow the aquarium? Did some muskie babies get mixed in with trout fry that the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries were raising and then accidentally get released along with the trout? No one seemed to have an answer. But for those who are drawn to the river to swim in the dark green waters of the Cowpasture on a hot summer day, who then gravitate to the raft and dive down beneath the surface, eyes closed, to hover there for a few moments, silent and cool, the answer is obvious, and as old as time itself.

PRINTED IN COLOR

B-12 Richmond Times-Dispatch, Sun., June 25, 1978

## Adventure for Two Students on Cowpasture River

# Rare Muskie Tale Makes Rounds

There was an adventure fishing story going around Richmond last week. It was told by excited bankers and lawyers as they passed along the financial district of Main St. And it deals in detail with how a couple of St. Christopher's School students, Oway Wallace, 16, and John Ackery, 14, subdued a rare, 17-pound muskies while they were fishing on the Cowpasture River.

Whenever a muskie is caught, the report is worthy of news. Muskies are not native to Virginia waters. But, in recent years they have been introduced by the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries as an occasional trophy for Old Dominion anglers.

Wallace and Ackery, however, present a rather unusual situation in that they suffered the frustration of twice breaking up landing nets and having their canoe overturned during the course of more than one hour while fighting the alligator-like monster.

The course of events created a bear riot for the house party at Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Carrington's place on the Cowpasture. Oway and Ackery were guests at the party and decided to do a little fishing for smallmouth bass on the river.

As Frank Carter tries to tell the story — he gets choked up with the excitement of the adventure — the students were taking turns paddling and trawling with the canoe. During John's turn at the paddle the fly and spinner on Oway's line hit a snag.

The lure was a small wet streamer fly with redhead and twice breaking up landing nets and having their canoe overturned during the course of more than one hour while fighting the alligator-like monster.

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## Outdoors

By Max Ailor



freedom within the depths of the Cowpasture River.

An hour had passed and both the fish and the boy were showing the strain of the battle. But more help arrived as another house guest, Davis Winkle, volunteered his skills in a search for another landing net.

Instead, he located a leaf basket made of chicken wire and rushed to assist the anglers.

Winkle boarded the canoe but was to think better of the idea later as Oway again worked the muskie into the shallow shelf of water. Davis disembarked and held the basket in the water until the fish could be worked into the trap.

The successful landing of the muskie, which measured 41 inches in length, was cause for much celebration at the Carrington house party. And Oway found himself the center of much praise from his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Southall Wallace.

The dedicated muskie fisherman of Canada, where the muskie is a native of the glacial lakes, claim it takes 10,000 casts to catch a muskellunge. But it will take more than 10,000 fishing trips for John Ackery and Oway Wallace to forget the thrilling, though frustrating, Cowpasture River monster.

CASTING ABOUT — Area saltwater fishermen are beginning to get in on the trophy catches of the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia Beach. Etienne M. Bess of Chester picked up a nine-pound flounder and E. E. Dye Jr. and H.W. Gull Jr. of Manakin won citations with flat fish weighing seven pounds, one ounce. The top flounder of the season is a 10-pounder taken out

of Quinby by Neal E. Messer of Hopewell. Citation grey trout catches have been registered by Rick Haynes (11/7), R.L. Toler (11/5), Joe Berry (11/1) and Jack House (11/1) of Richmond. A 47-pound citation channel bass was caught by Charles E. Allen of Richmond while he fished for trout with a Trout lure. Pete Wood of Richmond got in on the first offshore run. They took a limit of largemouth bass in less than a half day of fishing while casting black and purple plastic worms.

The 16-fish stringer weighed 42 pounds and included one live-pounder.

Russell J. Talley Sr. of Sandston is the leader in the trout division of the Virginia Salt Water Sports Fishing Tour-

ament with a 16-pound, 13-ounce taug he took while fishing off the Y Bury. And Oakey O. Mitchell of Chester has the largest croaker of the season with a four-pound, four-ounce bass he took at Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel.

Bill and Tony Mahlas report bass are plentiful on rocky point drops in 5 to 10 feet of water at Lake Anna. They took a limit of largemouth bass in less than a half day of fishing while casting black and purple plastic worms.

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## Meet Our New Board Member Nominee

Please meet our board nominee who will be on the ballot at our upcoming Annual Meeting.

**Harold Smestad** — I have been associated with Fort Dickinson Farm nearly my entire life. Whether kayaking and fishing the beautiful Cowpasture River or hunting the farm and adjoining George Washington National Forest, this incredible piece of property is a privilege to call home. In 2014, I took on the task of bringing the farmhouse back to her glory, and I fell in love with the house as well as the notion of living out here full time. Seven years later, I have not once regretted my decision. Living in harmony with the Cowpasture has taught me to respect her beauty as well as her wrath. I love seeing the increased popularity of our local natural resources, including our Cowpasture River, especially by those who appreciate the pristine conditions and focus to preserve for future generations.



The CRPA is an organization I hold in high esteem and have happily been a small part of for a number of years. Being called upon to further my involvement and join this team and their effort of preservation for years to come is truly an honor, and I look forward to contributing in any way that I am able.

## 50th Anniversary Special Events —Don't Forget to Sign Up!



**Saturday April 30, 2022 (10:00 am—1:00 pm) — Backyard Foraging. Led by CRPA Member Dr. Annette Naber.** Discover the abundance of edible and medicinal plants that grow in the lush bio-diverse region of the Virginia Western Highlands. Begin by exploring edible weeds in the garden, then meander through the picturesque fields, hedgerows and forest edges. The group will identify wildflowers, berries, nuts, greens, leaves and barks. You will learn about ethical foraging ground rules and plants that should never be picked because they are endangered or poisonous to humans. We will meet in Highland County, near Monterey. (Limited to 12 participants.)

**Saturday, May 28, 2022 (10:00 am—1:00 pm) — Forest Bathing: A Guided Walk through Emerald Mountain Sanctuary's Forest Trails. Led by Dr. Annette Naber.** Immerse yourself in the sensory experiences and healing scents of the mosses, ferns, shrubs and trees that make up the forest eco-system. *Shinrin-yoku*, the Japanese custom of walking in the forest, has been scientifically proven to lower blood pressure and heart rate and increase your feelings of well being. Annette will lead you through a series of mindful and sensory exercises that will enhance your forest walk and deepen your experience of being in nature. Participants will enjoy a refreshing home-made lemonade or herbal tea at the end of the walk. We will meet in Highland County, near Monterey. (Limited to 12 participants.)

**To register, sign up at [www.cowpastureriver.org](http://www.cowpastureriver.org). To learn more about Annette's work, visit her website at <https://emeraldmountainsanctuary.com>.**

# CRPA's Annual Meeting & Dinner



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2022**

**Join us for good company and excellent food at our  
Annual Meeting and Dinner**

- 5:00—6:00 pm** Social Hour with 50th Anniversary Slide Show and Raffle  
**6:00—7:00 pm** Catered Dinner by Chef Josh Elliott (from Garth Newel)  
**7:00—8:00 pm** Presentation by Steven Johnson — “Beneath Vernal Pools:  
Documenting Life in Temporary Ponds From the Perspective of  
a Conservation Photographer”  
**Business Meeting — Vote on a New Director for the Board**

## **WHERE:**

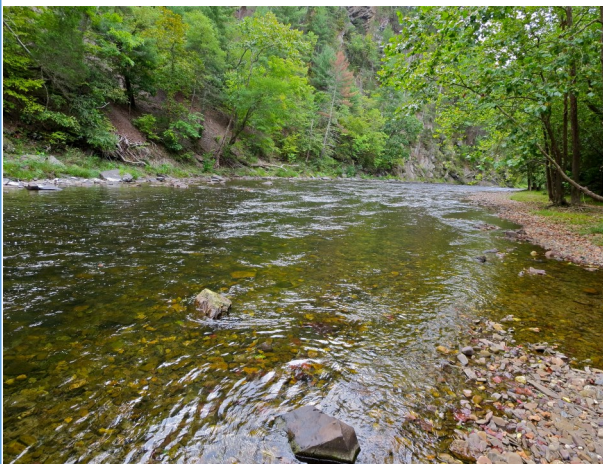
**Camp Mont Shenandoah  
218 Mont Shenandoah Lane  
Millboro, VA 24460**



## **COST**

**\$25 per person — please pay in advance)**  
**\$15 for children (ages 12 and under)**  
**No refunds after May 14, 2022**

**RSVP: Sign-up and pay online at [www.cowpastureriver.org](http://www.cowpastureriver.org).**



**If you have any problems, email Lynne Griffith at [directorcrpa@gmail.com](mailto:directorcrpa@gmail.com) or call 540-620-7795.**

**Registration deadline is May 14, 2022 (or, AT LEAST email your intentions by that date — we have to guarantee the number attending to the caterer).**

Photo by Joseph M. Seiffert.



**IF YOU CANNOT PARTICIPATE** at the CRPA Annual Meeting, please return this proxy vote by April 30, 2022 along with any unpaid dues\* to: **CRPA, Box 215, Millboro, VA 24460.**

I am unable to participate in the 2022 Annual Meeting and do hereby name the following Director (circle one) to be my/our Proxy.

Richard Brooks	David Burnett	Linda Cauley	Margo Clegg	Caryl Cowden
Elizabeth Dudley	Michael Hayslett	Kim Manion	Norwood Morrison	Tom Reycraft
Catherine Roland	Ross Waller	Andrew Young	Nan Mahone Wellborn	

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please note: Unsigned proxies will be void. Unpaid dues will disqualify your vote. If you contributed to the 2021 annual campaign, or have sent dues in 2022, you are in good standing with respect to the vote.

But, in case you're behind in your dues ...

\* Membership Categories (check one):

\_\_\_\_\_ Member (\$25 minimum per individual)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ River Guardian (\$50)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Headwaters Circle (\$100)

\_\_\_\_\_ Watershed Stewart (\$250)

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Wallawhatoola Society (\$500)

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Bedrock Patron (\$1000+)

The CRPA Nominating Committee has chosen the following individual to fill the open and/or expiring board member terms:

♦ Harold Smestad (3-year term)

**Nominee Biography:**



**Harold Smestad** — See Harold's biography on Page 13.

In addition, many thanks to Harold for being such a faithful participant in our bi-annual Walton Tract Clean-Ups.

***Thank you for being a part of the CRPA annual elections process!***





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

Post Office Box 215

Millboro, VA 24460

(540) 620-7795

## 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

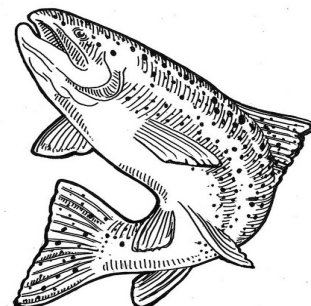
PHONE

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.)