

# THE RIVER RUNS

News from the Cowpasture River Preservation Association



## Inside This Issue:

- Ø From the President
- Ø Executive Assistant's Corner
- Ø The Walton Tract Clean-Up
- Ø Camp Wallawhatoola Reunion
- Ø Education & Monitoring Committees
- Ø 50th Anniversary Series
- Ø Results of our Online Auction
- Ø In Remembrance
- Ø Thank You to our Donors
- Ø Join or Renew Your Membership

*A stunning wintry photo of the Cowpasture River taken on January 31, 2021 at Fort Dickinson Farm along the Cowpasture River Highway, just north of Nimrod Hall. (Photo by Harold Smestad)*

*Send us your best photos of the Cowpasture River and the wildlife that accompanies it.*

## Board of Directors (2021-2022)

### Officers:

*Elizabeth Dudley, President*

*Norwood Morrison, Treasurer*

*Kim Manion, Secretary*

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*Richard Brooks*

*David Burnett*

*Linda Cauley*

*Margo Clegg*

*Caryl Cowden*

*Michael Hayslett*

*Catherine Manner*

*Tom Reycraft*

*Ross Waller*

*Nan Mahone Wellborn*

*Andrew Young*

### Staff:

*Lynne Griffith,  
Executive Assistant*

Editor: *Lynne Griffith*

## From the President

At the start of a new year, I, along with many others, reflect on the past year and take stock of what has gone well and what has not. In support of my pursuit of happiness, I will decide how I might be able to end up with more on the “gone well” side in the coming year!

The CRPA experienced a variety of ups and downs in 2021. The down which became an up in my mind is the oh-so-convenient Zoom meeting! The CRPA board began meeting via Zoom in 2020 and have now probably become so accustomed to the ease of gathering this way, I fear we may have real difficulties returning to the “old” way of meeting in person! I recognize the benefits of social interaction and am reminded of my particular need for this when I find myself striking up conversations with strangers in the grocery store. That being said, I will likely encourage in person meetings whenever it becomes safe for all.

We were unable to schedule an annual meeting in 2021 but somehow managed to squeeze in our annual picnic. I’ll keep my fingers crossed that we are able to meet for both events this year!

Due to record low water levels, we were also unable to offer any group floats in 2021, but we have continued in our mission to preserve the quality of the water in our precious watershed and, as Puggy Farmer reports, to introduce others to this process.

Sadly, we have lost special members in the past year, yet our total membership numbers are up. Thanks to our many loyal and generous members, our current fundraising campaign is looking great!

I hope you all enjoy the article on the founding and earliest years of the CRPA. I’m certain our founders would be quite proud of all the association has achieved and also relieved to find the Cowpasture River in the same pristine quality as it was in 1972! I believe they would be absolutely stunned to see how much the CRPA has grown.

It seems to me that most has “gone well” in the past year for the CRPA. I’ll plan to continue onward in like fashion knowing that things usually come out better than one thinks they will! Wishing you all a Happy New Year. — *With warmest regards, Elizabeth Dudley*





## Executive Assistant's Corner

2022 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cowpasture River Preservation Association. In anticipation of this big event, we have formed the “50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee” whose goal is to come up with a variety of ideas as to how to celebrate this milestone.

One of the ways we chose to celebrate this event is with our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary essay series in The River Runs. As you may recall, in our Fall 2021 newsletter, we began the series with a 1979 VMI report on the navigability of the Cowpasture River. In this Winter 2022 issue, we now begin a four-part series of the history of the CRPA, focusing on different decades in each of the four issues. This issue covers the early years between 1972 – 1982.



In addition to the essay series, the committee will be working with a designer to come up with a new 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary design for our t-shirts. We also hope to have 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary mugs to offer you in our online merchandise store.

We hope to be able to gather in person this year for our annual meeting in May. If we are able to do so, we're looking forward to having a compilation of commemorative photos of CRPA throughout the years. With that in mind, we are asking you to send me your photos, stories and memories that you have of CRPA and the Cowpasture River from the past 50 years. You can send your information to me, with descriptions provided, to [directorcrpa@gmail.com](mailto:directorcrpa@gmail.com). We are also searching for others ways to publish these photos and memories, possibly in an online format or through a coffee table book. We will keep you posted as we decide.

I also want to take a moment and thank everyone who contributed to our 2020-2021 annual campaign which wrapped up on October 31st. We had a great year, and we are forever grateful to our members who continue to support this organization. The 2021-2022 annual campaign kicked off on November 1, 2021, and many of you have already sent in contributions. Again, we thank you.



As a thank you to Dick Brooks for his 4+ years of serving as the President for the CRPA Board of Directors, the board members got together and gifted him with an Orvis fly-fishing backpack. Thank you Dick for your years of faithful leadership to this organization and for continuing to serve on the board. Here's hoping you now have more time to go fishing!

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season. It is a gift to be able to serve in this role for CRPA, and it brings me great joy to continually interact with so many of you on a regular basis. All the best to each one of you as we embark on another new year. I look forward to seeing you in 2022!

— Lynne



## The Walton Tract Clean-Up

Many thanks to Doug Albrecht, Jim Bayliss, Elizabeth Dudley, Puggy Farmer, Lynne Griffith, Jane Lindsay, Will Mahone, Dave Peters, Harold Smestad, Elizabeth Van Lear, Ross Waller, Bucky Wells, Mike Whiteside, Joe Wood and sweet Hank, the dog, for helping us pick up trash at the bi-annual Walton Tract Clean-Up held on October 23, 2021. We collected so much trash that we filled up the back of three pick-up trucks! (Photos by Lynne Griffith)





## Camp Wallawhatoola Reunion

The annual Camp Wallawhatoola Reunion was held at Camp Mont Shenandoah September 9-12, 2021. The participants visited the old camp property which is now owned by George and Frances Phillips. Donald M. Sutton, who served as the former owner and director of Camp Wallawhatoola for 50 years, turned 100 years young on October 1st. He sadly passed away on December 9, 2021.



Group shot at the Feed Bag at Camp Mont Shenandoah.



Enjoying the beautiful Cowpasture River.



CRPA member Keith Schnebly with Donald M. Sutton at Donald's home in Salem, VA.



Enjoying the view of the Cowpasture River out on the porch at the Camp Wallawhatoola Lodge, which still remains on the Phillips' property.



## Education and Monitoring Committee Updates

### **Dabney Lancaster Community College Forestry Department**

#### **River Ecology Lab**

by Puggy Farmer

On October 4, 2021, the CRPA monitoring and education committees jointly hosted the eighth Dabney Lancaster Community College Forestry Department River Ecology Lab at the Whiteside summer home on the river. The river labs became an annual event in the forestry department for entering freshmen in 2013. Last year was the first break in this annual event due to the COVID virus. In addition, the CRPA was asked three years ago to provide a special lab as part of a summer program at the college to recertify attending science teachers from across Virginia.

Being included in the forestry ecology course and subsequent recognition by the college not only is important as a prestige accomplishment for the CRPA, but demonstrates to our membership that the CRPA is fulfilling the goal of the education committee to bring the importance of river ecology to area students. The education committee has done an outstanding job of doing this through the dedication of Kim Manion and Dave Peters.

The river lab begins with an overview of the CRPA and the dedication of the membership to clean water. From there, a collection of vials filled with clear substances are presented to the students to guess which one is actually clean water. This engages the students immediately because they realize appearance is a weak indication of clean water.

From there, the presentation progresses to benthic invertebrates and the importance the tolerance level of the different “bugs” is to hidden pollution. Next, after a demonstration of correct collection technique, the students go into the river and collect the invertebrates. Then using the identification handouts, the students separate and identify the “bugs”.

Kudos for the CRPA committee volunteers and board of directors. Dave Peters, Mike Whiteside and Puggy Farmer represented the CRPA at this lab. Scott Reigel is the Dabney Forestry Head. (Photos on the following page.)

#### **Every Kid Outdoors Grant Information**

The Education Committee is excited to announce that the National Park Trust awarded the Cowpasture River Preservation Association with an “Every Kid Outdoors Transportation Grant” to provide students with a meaningful watershed educational experience. Our goal is to use the money towards the “Kits for Kids” program. The amount of the grant is \$1,500.00. Congratulations!



## Education and Monitoring Committee Update

### The Dabney Lancaster Forestry Department River Ecology Lab (photos by Scott Reigel and Marla Whiteside )



Dave Peters helping a student remove specimens from a catch net.



Puggy Farmer and Mike Whiteside show the students how to set a net in the river.



The students with Mike Whiteside, Puggy Farmer, Dave Peters and Hank, the dog.



Students guessing which vials are clean water while Dave Peters oversees the process.

### **STAY TUNED!**

Many thanks to Ross Waller for compiling years of CRPA's river monitoring data into a graph format. The compiled data will be coupled with a map of the Cowpasture River that will be placed onto our CRPA website. Daniel Shaffer from the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance has been working with CRPA to coordinate the map with the proper longitudinal and latitudinal coordinates reflecting our monitoring sites. We'll let you know when the information is posted.



## The 50th Anniversary Series (The Early Years: 1972—1982)

In January of 2022 our association will kick off our 50<sup>th</sup> year of working to preserve the Cowpasture watershed. That's fifty years of concerted efforts to protect the integrity and quality of the river from its headwaters in Highland County to its convergence with the Jackson River in Alleghany County.

In this issue of The River Runs, we begin a four-part history of our great organization. We know in advance that we may miss some important milestones – we only have what has been preserved in our records. But our gratitude goes out to those who had the foresight to launch, manage and maintain CRPA over the years. If not for what this organization accomplished in the past, we'd have a considerably different, and much less pristine watershed today.

Although we've made every effort to gather as much history as we could, we know there is more information out there. If you have memories, stories, photos, or anything else that you'd like to share, please forward them to Lynne Griffith via mail at PO Box 215, Millboro VA 24460 or via email at [directorcrpa@gmail.com](mailto:directorcrpa@gmail.com). Thank you in advance for everything you can add to our rich history.

### **January 10, 1972 — Handwritten minutes of the Cowpasture River Association by Rita B. Walters:**

In response to an open invitation extended by Mr. Herbert Hardbarger and Mr. Temple Kessinger to all Cowpasture River owners, a group of more than 50 persons met at the Millboro High School at 7 pm on January 10, 1972. The stated reason for the meeting was to protect the Cowpasture River and to fend off any uninvited Federal or State attempts to take over the river. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Kessinger who described his growing concern about the future of the river and noted that after many talks with Mr. Hardbarger, they had decided to invite all interested parties to discuss the future of the river and to create an organization in which every one could participate and help protect the river. Following introductory remarks, Edward Walters — drawing upon information he obtained as a Soil and Water Conservation District Director — presented an outline of the Virginia Scenic Rivers Act. He concluded his report by recommending that the group should study this matter since it might be possible to use the Act to preserve the river in its present state. The group agreed that before making any decision about the Act, political members and officials of the Virginia Commission of Outdoor Recreation would be invited to meet with the group to answer further questions about how the Act might be used with regard to the Cowpasture River. . .

Temple Kessinger was nominated and elected Chairman.

**February 16, 1972** — General meeting at Fairview Community Center with 114 persons attending. The discussion was focused on the Virginia Scenic River Act.

**March 1972** — The first newsletter (*see next page*) was sent out to the membership by Mr. Kessinger with a discussion of the Scenic Rivers Act. It also suggested that another method of protection is the possibility of enacting zoning ordinances which control commercial development, industrialization, and establish some type of building codes and subdivision restrictions.



# The First CRPA Newsletter *(in its original letter format)*

March 1972

## COWPASTURE RIVER ASSOCIATION

Dear Cowpasture River Residents and Property Owners:

In these days of increasing population pressures, pollution, and desecration of natural beauty and resources -- the Cowpasture River is a rare jewel. Its waters still run fresh and pure, safe to swim in and safe to drink. Its beauty that our fathers knew remains basically intact. Throughout the U. S. there are, unfortunately, very few rivers that have not been contaminated, dammed, or otherwise altered -- for worse -- by our civilization's growing need for water supplies, hydro-electric power, sewage disposal, and flood control.

The Cowpasture River means more than water, rocks, and trees. It represents, literally, generations of both work and pleasure for those of us lucky enough to live here. It still possesses the thrill of a wild river, the charm of a pastoral stream, and the inspiration of a magnificent natural setting. In short, it is an invaluable asset that must be protected and defended. It is for this purpose -- to preserve the Cowpasture River and to maintain our property rights -- that our Association has been formed. And we need everyone's help.

One of our initial concerns has been about the implications of state legislation -- The Scenic Rivers Act of 1970 -- for our River. A survey had recommended that the Cowpasture be incorporated within a proposed Scenic Rivers System in order to "protect for future generations" what was described as "... the most beautiful pastoral stream in the state ..." Because of questions about property rights and the possibility of increased public access implied by such a designation, the Association has held talks with state assemblymen, state senators, and other state officials. We can now assure you that there is, at least for this year, no possibility of any proposal regarding the Cowpasture being introduced. It has, however, been suggested that we may wish to use the Scenic Rivers Act as a tool to help accomplish our own purpose of protecting and preserving this River. Enclosed is a copy of the Act as well as additional data which should be studied carefully by all of us in order to determine what our actions or reactions should be regarding the Scenic Rivers Act.

Another method of protection that may be explored by our Association is the possibility of enacting zoning ordinances which would control commercial development, industrialization, and establish some type of building code and sub-division restrictions.

It is also foreseen that our Association will be active in other areas: attacking problems such as litter and trash control and clean-up, fishing regulations and trespass controls, and protective vigilance for seasonally vacant homes and cottages.

If you have not already joined, the Association -- by means of this letter -- extends an invitation to you to join your neighbors to help determine what happens to our River today and tomorrow. We need your thoughts and guidance. And the bigger and stronger our Association is, the stronger our voice will be. An assessment of membership dues (for an undetermined period) of \$5.00 was approved at our meeting on February 16 in order to meet organizational expenses such as stationery and postage. Please send your money either to our Secretary, Mrs. Rita Walters, Nimrod Hall, Va. 24470, or to our Treasurer, Mr. Curtis M. Brown of The First National Bank of Clifton Forge.

Sincerely yours,



Temple L. Kessinger  
President



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT VIRGINIA'S SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM

Extracts from the Commission of Outdoor  
Recreation Pamphlet of July 20, 1970

### WHAT IS THE SCENIC RIVERS ACT?

The Act authorizes the preservation of those streams and rivers in Virginia that possess attributes of pastoral beauty, natural features worthy of preservation and other benefits.

### WHY DOES VIRGINIA NEED A SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM?

Virginia's rivers are being developed for private and commercial uses at an alarming rate, and in many instances at the cost of natural beauty of the river. All Virginians have a right to a decent environment, and unspoiled rivers are a vital part of this natural heritage.

### WHAT QUALITIES MUST A RIVER HAVE TO BE DESIGNATED AS A SCENIC RIVER?

It must possess exceptional natural beauty as a basic requirement. Consideration will be given also to wildlife, fishing potential, quality of water, recreation opportunities, and historical features. A river may have any combination of these qualities and the absence of one or more does not exclude it from the list of possible scenic rivers.

### IS IT NECESSARY TO INCLUDE THE WHOLE RIVER IN THE SYSTEM? No.

### WHAT WILL IT MEAN TO A LANDOWNER WHEN A RIVER FLOWING THROUGH OR BORDERING HIS PROPERTY IS DESIGNATED AS A SCENIC RIVER BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY?

The Commission will be in touch with landowners during the early study phase of a scenic river to explain the plan and to answer questions. Protection of a river may require conservation zoning, an agreement with the landowner for an open space easement, purchase of fee title, or other contractual arrangements.

### WHAT IS AN OPEN SPACE EASEMENT?

This allows the landowner to enter into a contractual agreement with a public body to insure that the river area will remain in its natural or pastoral scenic state. Under easement, the landowner retains title to his land and may continue to use it for agriculture, forestry, or similar purposes. The easement is written on an individual basis with each landowner and has as its primary objective preservation of the river environment, taking into consideration the owner's desire to continue to use the land.

### WHAT IS CONSERVATION ZONING?

It is an action by the local government, as a part of local zoning, which is designed to protect an area from uses that are incompatible with a Scenic Rivers System.

### HOW MUCH LAND WILL THE PRESERVATION OF A SCENIC RIVER REQUIRE?

The amount of land to be protected will be determined by the characteristics of individual rivers and expected uses of them. A general guide will be to "protect" whatever amount of land is needed to insure preservation of the aesthetic setting.

### WILL A LANDOWNER WHO GRANTS AN OPEN SPACE EASEMENT HAVE CONTROL OVER WHO IS ALLOWED TO COME ON HIS LAND?

Yes. All trespass laws remain in force. The easement does not grant public access. Hunting and fishing will be allowed, subject to local game and fish laws (and landowner's permission.) The scenic river will be policed by the usual law enforcement agencies.

### ONCE A RIVER BECOMES A SCENIC RIVER WHAT TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT CAN TAKE PLACE?

Some rivers will be preserved in their natural state...On other rivers, the nature of open space easements will determine what type of development may be allowed. Generally, single-family residences will be compatible with a scenic river if they are properly located.



*An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 10 a chapter numbered 15, containing sections numbered 10-167 through 10-175, to provide for a Virginia scenic and recreational rivers system; additional duties of the Commission of Outdoor Recreation.*

[H 27]

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia be amended by adding in Title 10 a chapter numbered 15, containing sections numbered 10-167 through 10-175, as follows:

CHAPTER 15  
*Scenic Rivers Act*

Sec. 10-167.

- a. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Scenic Rivers Act."
- b. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the Commonwealth of Virginia that rivers, streams, runs and waterways including their shores and immediate environs which possess great natural and pastoral beauty constitute natural resources, the conservation of which constitutes a beneficial public purpose. It is further declared that preservation of certain rivers or sections of rivers for their scenic values is a beneficial purpose of water resource policy.
- c. The purpose of this legislation is to provide for the identification, preservation, and protection of certain rivers or sections of rivers which possess natural beauty of high quality, and therefore should be included in a Virginia Scenic River System to assure their use and enjoyment for their scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other values.
- d. In all planning for the use and development of water and related land resources including the construction of impoundments, diversions, roadways, crossings, channelization, locks, canals, or other uses which change the character of a stream or waterway or destroy its scenic values, full consideration and evaluation of the river as a scenic resource shall be given before alternative plans for use and development are approved.

Sec. 10-168.

- As used in this chapter, the following words and terms shall have the following meanings:
- a. "River" shall mean a flowing body of water, or a section or portion thereof.
  - b. "Scenic Rivers System" shall mean and include those rivers or sections of rivers designated as a Scenic River by an Act of the General Assembly.
  - c. "Commission" shall mean the Commission of Outdoor Recreation.

Sec. 10-169

- In addition to other duties conferred by Chapter 2.1 of this title, the Commission shall have the following duties:
- a. To make studies of rivers or sections of rivers to be considered for designation by the General Assembly as scenic rivers.
  - b. To recommend to the Governor and to the General Assembly rivers or sections thereof to be considered for designation as scenic rivers.

Sec. 10-170.

- a. Studies by the Commission of rivers to be considered for designation as wild, scenic or recreational rivers shall be conducted in cooperation with appropriate agencies of the State and of the United States.

- b. When the General Assembly acts to include a river or section of river in the Scenic River System, the Commission shall appoint an Advisory Committee of residents, including at least one riparian landowner, in the locality or localities of the river or river section and other qualified persons. The Advisory Committee shall elect a chairman from among its members. Members of the Advisory Committee shall serve at the will of the Commission. The duties of the Advisory Committee shall be to assist and advise the Commission concerning the protection or management of such river. Members of the Advisory Committee shall receive no compensation.

Sec. 10-171.

- A recommendation to the Governor and General Assembly that a river or section thereof be designated a scenic river shall be submitted with:
- a. The views and recommendations of the Division of Water Resources of the Department of Conservation and Economic Development, the Water Control Board, and other affected agencies; and
  - b. A report showing the proposed area and classification, the characteristics which qualify the river or section of river for designation, the general ownership and land use in the area, and the estimated costs of acquisition and administration in the Scenic Rivers System.

Sec. 10-172.

Prior to submitting recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly, the Commission shall upon request of any interested State agency or political subdivision, or upon its own motion, hold a public hearing on a proposal to designate a scenic river.

Sec. 10-173.

The agency designated by the General Assembly shall administer a river or section thereof to achieve the purposes of this chapter, and in accordance with its powers and duties conferred elsewhere by law.

Sec. 10-174.

After designation of any river or section of river as a scenic river by the General Assembly, no dam or other structure impeding the natural flow thereof shall be constructed, operated, or maintained in such river or section of river unless specifically authorized by an act of the General Assembly.

Sec. 10-175.

The Commission is authorized to acquire in the name of the Commonwealth, either by gift or purchase, any real property or interest therein which the Commission considers necessary or desirable for the protection of any scenic river, and to transfer such property to other State agencies; provided that the Commission may not exercise the right of eminent in acquiring any such property or interest. (1970, c. 468)

SCENIC RIVERS ACT  
Approved April 4, 1970

**July 13, 1972** — The first Articles of Incorporation were issued listing Temple Kessinger as President and Robert D. Davis as Vice President. The articles were drawn up by H. Merril Pasco, Esq. of the Richmond firm of Hunton and Williams.

**April 1973** — Newsletter discussed possible effects of discharge from the Coursey Springs Fish Cultural Station. Also, it was noted that the U.S. Forest Service had recently acquired three large tracts of land on the river: the Marshal Tract, 300 acres with 1/2 mile of river frontage; the Wallace Tract, 460 acres with 1 1/2 mile of river; and the Walton Tract with 2 1/2 mile of river. These tracts provide public access to the Cowpasture River. Also, it was noted that the two high voltage power lines from the recently announced VEPCO Project at Back Creek would impact this area's wild and rustic beauty.

*Commentary from the CRPA history compilers — Many of the issues that surfaced during the first year of the Association persisted throughout the first ten years; some were still in play in 2006. There was (and is) tension between those who feared governmental intervention in private ownership and those who are willing, perhaps reluctantly, to use the programs of the state agencies to protect the water quality of the river.*

## Other Highlights of the Early Years:

**October 8, 1973** — Newsletter announced a meeting to be held at Fairview Community Center. The issues were clearcutting on steep mountain slopes such as on Shenandoah Mountain and the impact of channelization of streams. It was noted that the Jackson River landowners had formed The Mountain Area Environmental Rights Association to oppose the Corps of Engineers in construction of the Gathright Dam. The Corps “contend that the Jackson is a navigable river and that property owners have no property rights vis a vis the river.”

**November 5, 1974** — Meeting at Fairview re channelization. A channelization project of the Bullpasture River was discussed.

**May 8, 1974** — Annual meeting at Fairview.

**June 10, 1974** — Special meeting re Forest Service timbering plans for Shenandoah Mountain.

**November 13, 1974** — Special meeting re Alleghany County plans to tap the lower Cowpasture River for the water supply for the growing population.

**September 19, 1975** — Shenandoah Mountain clearcutting controversy continues. Alleghany County drops plans to draw water from the river. The Association has been blamed for blocking the development of a mobile home park in Bath County; treated effluent from the package sewage treatment plan would have been discharged into the Cowpasture River.

**May 9, 1977** — Annual Meeting at Fairview with dinner served by the women of the Windy Cove Presbyterian Church.

**September 26, 1977** — Special Meeting called to discuss siltation and pollution from the construction of Interstate 64 along Simpson Creek and across the Cowpasture at Sharon.

**March 10, 1978** — Newsletter: The Jackson River below the new Gathright Dam is declared, after extensive study, a navigable river by the Corps of Engineers. Rough Mountain is included in a recent Forest Service inventory of land that could qualify for designation as a Wilderness Area.

**May 1, 1978** — Annual meeting. Lt. Gov. Chuck Robb was the speaker. The Lt. Governor is related to Colonel Charles Lewis, pre-revolutionary war leader and pioneer settler on the Cowpasture River.

**May 8, 1979** — Annual Meeting. Delegate Shad Solomon spoke on “River Rights, Past, Present, and Future.”



The beautiful property of Peggy and Mike Van Yahres and Lang Murray, about six miles down from Millboro Springs. The river is below the house and runs along the bank past all of the outbuildings.



## OUR ONLINE AUCTION WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

This year's annual CRPA online auction benefitting the Bill Hardbarger Educational Scholarship Fund was a big success! The auction began on September 1st and wrapped up at midnight on September 18th. A total of \$4,119.00 was raised through the event. The bidding on some items became so competitive that folks set their alarms to wake up just before midnight in order to place a bid at the last second. Who knew the bidding would become so intense!

Many thanks to the following people who contributed a total of 27 auction items : Margo Clegg, George and Anna Beckwith, Kay Gerehart, Debra Sheffer, Mason Cauthorn, Tom Watts, Matt and Linda Cauley, Allen LeHew, Dave and Sandra Peters, Mike and Marla Whiteside, Bertis Downs, Peg Sheridan, Nan Mahone Wellborn, David and Kit Burnett, Christie Hardbarger, Joe Wood, Gregory Vess and Annette Naber. Here's a look at some of the items that were put up for auction:



Trip to Costa Rica donated by George and Anna Beckwith.



Handcrafted walnut bench donated by Gregory Vess.



Backyard foraging tour donated by Annette Naber.



"Riverside in Spring" donated by Deb Sheffer.



"Ft. Lewis Barns" donated by Kay Gerehart.



Handmade "Kissmas" tree made by Joe Wood.

## **The James River Buffer Program**

The James River Buffer Program is working with landowners across the Middle and Upper James watersheds to restore or create forest buffers that improve the quality of local waterways. A forest buffer is an area of trees and shrubs between a stream and open land that filters soil, nutrients and pollution before they reach the stream. To be eligible for the program, the project must be entirely within the James River Watershed and be within particular localities, of which Alleghany, Bath and Highland counties are a part. Per Sarah Coffey, Chesapeake Bay Foundation Virginia Agricultural Field Technician, the program is still active and installing projects at least through December 2023. Over 50 acres are currently contracted, but the program still has 150 acres left in order to fulfill its goal. Applications are rolling in! If you would like to learn more information, be sure to check out the promotional video at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x\\_xiHx8gA7g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_xiHx8gA7g) or call 434-286-7000.

## **In Remembrance of Lois Jeavons**



CRPA member, Helen Lois Jeavons, passed away November 18, 2021, just days before her 98th birthday. Lois passed peacefully at home in University Heights, Ohio with her family by her side. She graduated from Hathaway Brown School in 1942 and attended Smith College during World War II. She was invited to join the School of the American Ballet. She returned to Shaker Heights, Ohio where she established a successful ballet school and married William Jeavons. Despite contracting polio in 1952, she had a full and active life which included teaching ballet, playing tennis, canoeing the length of the Cuyahoga River, and volunteering for the Junior League. In 1984, she and Bill retired to Virginia and served on the Board of the Warm Springs Garden Club. Both were members of the Bath County Historical Society and of the Cowpasture River Preservation Association. Moving to Ventura, California in 1997, she was a tutor and a member of the League of



Women Voters. After losing her husband, she continued to see life's challenges as adventures and began her blog becoming known as GrannyGobama. At the age of 90, she published her first novel, "Manners, Morals and Myths" and recently completed the sequel which will be released in 2022. Her granddaughter, Brady Dindia, tells us that Lois was always very proud of the work that CRPA did for the area, and Lois was able to make one last special trip to Virginia in October and was able to spend time along the banks of the Cowpasture River.

A memorial rock in honor of Bill and Lois Jeavons, placed on the banks of the Cowpasture River by Lois' nephew, Tim Pistell.



## Thank You To Our Loyal Watershed Members

We are grateful for the additional donations we have received during the 2020-2021 Annual Campaign season that have come in since the Fall 2021 newsletter was published. These members who recently joined, renewed their memberships or sent in additional donations are listed below. *(Note: New members and first time donors are highlighted in bold.)*

**Total donations for the 2020-2021 Annual Campaign ending on October 31 came to \$52,029.50.**

Our new 2021—2022 annual campaign kicked off on November 1, 2021 and will run through October 31, 2022. Those donors will be listed in the Fall 2022 newsletter. Thank you for your generosity.

### BEDROCK PATRON

Tuck and Chris Carter

### HEADWATERS CIRCLE

Phil and Charlotte Lucas

John H. Turner

William and Beverly Wilson

### IN MEMORY OF:

Robert C. Hilton

*by John Fowler*

*Allan and Becky Howerton*

### WALLAWHATOOLA SOCIETY

David A. Kirk

Tom and Anna Lawson

Everett Jackson Black

*by Allan and Becky Howerton*

### RIVER GUARDIAN

Bill and Eleanor Washburn

Ann Williams

Cecil McCoy, Jr.

*by Allan and Becky Howerton*

### WATERSHED STEWARD

John Fowler

Allan and Becky Howerton

Paul and Valerie Marini

### INDIVIDUAL

**Kemp M. Houck**

Somers Knight

### IN HONOR OF:

John and Caryl Cowden

*by Robert and Martha Cowden*

## 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://cowpastureriver.org/shop/donate/>



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## 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

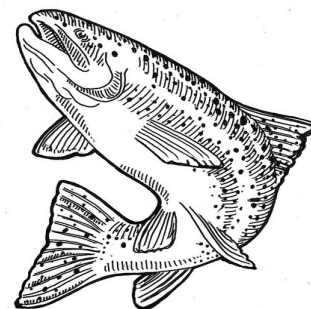
PHONE

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.)