

THE RIVER RUNS

News from the Cowpasture River Preservation Association



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A late Spring photo of the lower Cowpasture River taken by Catherine Roland on Memorial Day in 2020.

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

Officers:

Elizabeth Dudley, President

Tuck Carter, Treasurer

Linda Cauley, Secretary

Directors:

Dick Brooks

David Burnett

Caryl Cowden

Puggy Farmer

Tom Reycraft

Catherine Roland

Harold Smestad

Ann Warner

Nan Mahone Wellborn

Andrew Young

Staff:

*Lynne Griffith,
Executive Assistant*

Editor: *Lynne Griffith*

The Cowpasture River is full and flowing as it comes out of winter dormancy. The CRPA board is gearing up and planning a variety of activities for members to participate in, as well as initiating a new approach to protecting our watershed. I am anticipating enjoying another season outdoors on our beautiful river!

This year I will complete my second term of serving on the board, and I will pass the role of President on to another board member. I trust I will continue to find it a truly gratifying experience participating on a board comprised of good people who share a common interest in the Cowpasture River and a common goal of protecting it.

In this issue, four board members write about our next steps for protecting the river, and two board members write about what it's like to be on the CRPA board. I urge all of our members to consider volunteering to serve on the board. Many may find it a worthy and valuable way to spend one's time.

In closing, I must mention that here at Windy Cove Farm we have attempted to improve the fish population by stocking our section of the river with 150 "beauties." A few days after providing these fish with a wonderful new home, torrential rains created quite a rapid flow! Should any of you downriver manage to hook a sizable Rainbow Trout, please consider it a gift from Windy Cove, and either pass it on down the river or invite me to dinner.

Yours truly,
Elizabeth



Spring bluebells bloom along the Cowpasture River at the home of Kit and David Burnett. Photo taken on April 8, 2021.



Executive Assistant's Corner

I don't know about you, but I am SO READY for Spring. I can hardly wait to see the trees start to bud and for new life to emerge. And speaking of newness -- we're excited for all the new things going on here at CRPA.

Please take a moment to read our "Education Committee Update" on Page 15. Thanks to funds which were partially raised through our online auction, we can sponsor another worthy environmental program for young students. We are also happy to report that the "Kits for Kids" were delivered to Covington Middle School in February, as well as to the sixth grade classes in Bath County. The teachers were excited and grateful for the water testing supplies. What a great opportunity for the kids to learn about river monitoring.



CRPA also entered into a collaborative agreement with the Allegheny – Blue Ridge Alliance (ABRA) to develop an online conservation web map focused on the watersheds of the Cowpasture and Jackson Rivers, which comprise the upper headwaters of the James River. The web map will provide access to information concerning the environmental conditions in the two watersheds. You'll be hearing more about this in the future.

And be sure to check out our upcoming field trips on Page 5. Back by popular demand is our "Exploring Karst Topography" field trip led by Bill Jones. We had such a good turnout for last year's trip that we decided to do it again this year. And many thanks to board member Catherine Roland for organizing our summer river float being held on June 22. We're floating on a different section of the river this year. It should be great fun!

Please don't forget to sign up for our Annual Meeting and Dinner being held at Camp Mont Shenandoah on Saturday, May 18. We will be voting on our new board nominee, Denise Revercomb. You will also hear a presentation about our new "River Keeper" position and the future of our monitoring program. You can read all of the details on Page 13. We hope to see you there!



October 2023 Walton Tract clean-up crew.

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

Saturday, April 27, 2024 — 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 director@cowpastureriver.org or call 540-620-7795. Details will be provided upon your RSVP.

The Cowpasture's Future is in Our Hands Today

CRPA's Next Steps for Protecting Our Watershed

by Catherine Roland, Andrew Young, Puggy Farmer, Richard Brooks

"The earth, the air, the land, and the water are not an inheritance from our forefathers but on loan from our children. So, we have to hand over to them at least as it was handed over to us." — Mahatma Gandhi

For its first 50 years, CRPA successfully relied on an all-volunteer water monitoring program in support of its mission: "To preserve the natural condition and beauty of the Cowpasture River and its tributaries for present and future generations." Now, in recognition of our current member/volunteer resources and with an eye to the future, we are taking a new approach to continuing our legacy of excellence in water quality monitoring.

In the upcoming months, CRPA plans to hire what is generally known as a River Keeper, a professional dedicated to collecting the data that describes the watershed's health. This part-time position, with its focus on metrics, will allow us to not only continue the important work we've been doing for decades but to expand the scope of our efforts.

Background

In the past, CRPA has had a coterie of knowledgeable members who did routine bacterial analysis and macroinvertebrate counts on our river and tributaries. When we talked about our pristine watershed, we had those volunteers to thank for the data to back up that claim. In recent years, however, COVID regulations, health issues and other factors curtailed these monitoring activities, and that created gaps in our data collecting.

To restart the program, we needed to rethink both how we measure the water as well as what technologies we employ. And we had to acknowledge that drawing on our volunteer base wasn't going to be enough to handle these responsibilities going forward.

What's Next

With a dedicated River Keeper on board, here's how the program will expand. Because macroinvertebrates are our early warning system--they are completely reliable "truth tellers" of our water quality--we plan to add several locations for our twice-yearly macroinvertebrate measurements. We also plan to do more types of chemical analyses, covering roughly a dozen locations each month. We'll be monitoring the river's health more frequently and more thoroughly. We plan to make this data available to our members within days of the testing. In addition, this data will be shared with agencies including DEQ, USFS and DWR, as well as with citizens of our community.

In the next issue of *The River Runs*, we hope to introduce our new River Keeper as well as outline the new tests and their benefits. We believe this new initiative supports our mission and will ensure that our beloved watershed remains clean for many generations to come.

Check Out Our Field Trips

Saturday, June 1, 2024 (12:00 pm —4:00 pm) — Exploring Karst Topography (led by Bill Jones). Meet up with Bill Jones at Windy Cove Church at noon where we will caravan together in three cars to explore the local karst topography. The complete trip will encompass 47 miles and will take a total of four hours. Limited to 12 people. The cost is \$10.

Right: Group photo from last year's karst topography field trip.



Saturday, June 22, 2024 (Start time to be determined) — Summer River Float. Join us for our annual summer river float. We will start at the Manner family camp below Sharon Elementary School and take out at the Steel Bridge. You will be able to drop off your boat at the Manners, and we will then arrange rides to drop off your vehicle at the Steel Bridge and bring you back to the Manners to start the float. More details will be forthcoming. There is no charge for this event.

Group photo from CRPA's most recent summer river float trip.

Registration: You must RSVP to participate in either one of these field trips. To sign up, please send an email to director@cowpastureriver.org. Online registration will begin in May. A group email will be sent out at that time to notify members to register online via our website.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE "EXPLORING WOOD DUCK BOXES" FIELD TRIP (led by Arne Peterson on January 13, 2024)

It was cold, but I thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon with Arne! Getting out in the field, learning about wood duck biology and the chance to get face to face with some screech owls was a fantastic treat for me. Attached are some pictures from the afternoon including me, manhandling a brown morph owl and Arne in his workshop with wood duck and screech owl boxes. — Bill McNown



A History of Summer Camps Along the Cowpasture River Basin

by Ann Warner, CRPA Board Member and Director of Camp Mont Shenandoah

“I have a conviction that a few weeks spent in a well-organized summer camp may be of more value educationally than a whole year of formal school work.” — Charles William Eliot, President, Harvard University, 1869-1909

Every summer, thousands of children flock to camps throughout the United States to participate in the many activities provided and enjoy what the great outdoors has to offer. Starting in the late spring months, campers haul their trunks and duffles out of the attic as they begin to plan, prepare and pack for a week or more away from home.

The concept of the summer camp came to be towards the end of the 19th century as our society began to react against the urbanization and industrialization of America. The goals of the early camps, which persist in most traditional camps today, were to allow children to spend time in nature to promote an overall well-being, impart values and develop the entire child: physically, emotionally and spiritually. Camp was the “desirable antidote to city life...”¹ as children from urban areas had become prone to being “bored, listless and susceptible to unsavory influences”² during the summer months. Camps were developed in rural areas, usually on a body of water, following a theme of “manufactured wilderness” where campers could take risks and learn about nature in a safe, rustic and well supervised, environment.

With the 20th century, the number of camps proliferated throughout the country, primarily in New England and the Mid-Atlantic region. Bath County was no exception. Because the region offered many of the attributes found in a summer camp setting - a beautiful environment, a pristine river, ample flora and fauna - camps sprang up along the Cowpasture River watershed.

Camp Alkulana, the oldest summer camp in the State of Virginia (and one of the oldest in the country), is located on Lick Run, a tributary of the Cowpasture River, in Millboro Springs. Alkulana, an Indian word for “bright eyes,” was named as such when someone described the image of kerosene lanterns of the first cottage shining out into the woods at night. It was started in 1915 by Miss Nannie West for teenage girls who worked in the factories of Richmond. Miss West had been employed by the House of Happiness, a Baptist settlement house for girls and young women in the impoverished region of the city. She was an enthusiastic camping advocate and saw how an outdoor experience rejuvenated the girls. Today, the tradition of Alkulana, now a coed camp, is carried on by Beth Wright, the current director. As part of the Richmond Baptist Association, the camp’s mission is to “reveal God’s love to low-income and at-risk children ...so that they might realize the intrinsic value in themselves and others.”³ A central component to achieving their mission is for the children to experience nature through outdoor activities, which include swimming, spelunking, hiking and camping out.



Camp Mont Shenandoah Summer Camp "Life Savers" on the Cowpasture River (1931)



Camp Mont Shenandoah Summer Camp Canoeists on the Cowpasture River (1950s)

Due to poor health in 1924, Nannie West departed Alkulana but returned to her beloved Bath County when she started **Camp Mont Shenandoah** in 1927.

Located on the Cowpasture River and also in Millboro Springs, Camp Mont Shenandoah is a small, private camp for girls between the ages of seven and sixteen. The clientele differed from those of Camp Alkulana in that, while most of the campers were from the vicinity of Richmond, they were primarily from families with means. It is unknown why

Miss West left the missionary work of serving disadvantaged girls to start a camp for girls of privilege, but she brought with her the same values and ideals established at Camp Alkulana. In the late 20s and early 30s, the mission of the camp was "to develop Christian character and to give to its girls a happy, wholesome vacation.... [where the] program will strengthen the soul as well as the mind and body. It develops...a love for God's great out-of-doors...the best avenue of approach to one's soul life."⁴ To this end, Miss West

emphasized the use of the natural

elements of the campgrounds with the river being the focal point of many activities. As described in a 1933 brochure, the camp is "A beautiful spot, where the river widens and the water gradually deepens [and] affords a delightful place for swimming and boating."⁵ Today, the same basic tenets guide the program at Camp Mont Shenandoah with the river still providing a central focus for the girls' learning and recreation. It can be heard every summer, as each girl plunges into the cool, emerald green waters, "I love the river!"

Next door to Camp Mont Shenandoah was **Camp Wallawhatoola**, a private boys' camp that operated from 1922 through 1983. The word "wallawhatoola" is an Indian term for "winding river," an excellent representation of the Cowpasture on which the camp sat (and a derivative of the actual name of the river, Walatoola, before it was changed to the Cowpasture). Dabney S. Lancaster and Stanley Sutton, the gentlemen behind the creation of the camp, met while both were working for Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (now fondly referred to as Virginia

Tech), Lancaster as an agricultural education professor and Sutton as the head football coach. Lancaster owned the property upon which the camp sat, where an old hotel and spa, also called Wallawhatoola, once belonged. The two men operated the camp together until 1927 when Dabney Lancaster sold the land to Sutton who remained the owner and director until his son, Don, assumed the operations in the mid-1960s. In a letter dated March 9, 1966, Stan Sutton wrote his grandson, Don “Skeet” Sutton, about his first time seeing the property that would become Camp Wallawhatoola. In it he states, “As I crossed the suspension bridge I looked first up and down to a very beautiful blue, cold stream with the farm ford passing beneath the bridge.”⁶ It was at this crossing that, each summer, the boys, campers and counselors, built a dam made of river stone to create a pool deep enough for swimming and boating. This arduous task is fondly recalled to this day at the annual Camp Wallawhatoola reunion as one of Uncle Don’s character building events!



1952 Images of Camp Wallawhatoola. Photos supplied by John Fowler.

Frank Wood was born and raised in Bath County. The son of Lewis and Emma Wood, he was the youngest of 13 children. In the early 1900s, Frank’s father passed away and gave him Nimrod Hall, a working inn that has been in existence since 1783. In 1933, Frank married Mae Murray. After having two daughters, Sarah and Frankie, Frank was looking for a way to supplement the income that Nimrod Hall provided. He loved children and the land. Coupling those two elements, he started **Camp Nimrod for Boys** on his property in 1935. Many activities were offered, such as tennis, riflery, archery, land sports, horseback riding and, of course, swimming, canoeing and fishing in the Cowpasture River. In 1939, Mattie Wood Poyser, Frank’s sister, was given a portion of the land to start **Camp Nimrod for Girls** which, following a similar mission, offered many of the same activities as the boys camp. Both camps started with a small number of campers but were immediately successful and, at their height, had as many as 135 children in each camp for eight weeks during the summer. An old Camp Nimrod for Boys brochure describes the camp as being located “in a most unusually picturesque beauty spot on the Cowpasture River, tributary to the lovely James. This camp lies in the foothills of the Alleghany mountains, bathed in gentle breeze, warming sunshine, with pleasantly cool nights.”⁷ Another brochure talks about the many happy hours the boys spent on the river. Both camps closed their doors in 1984, a few years after Frank’s death and

as the popularity of private camps began to wane. Sarah Davis, Frank's eldest daughter, fondly remembers her camping days, riding horses and swimming in the river. At the age of 16, she taught many of the children to ride. In 1965, she became the director of the girls camp and considered the many campers of Nimrod as her children. In some of her final years, Sarah operated what had been called "Pony Camp" at the old Nimrod for Girls site for two weeks each summer. Horses were the primary focus, but the girls used the refreshing waters of the Cowpasture to cool off in the afternoons. Wes Shrader, Sarah's son, also ran "Camp Poppy" for boys for several summer years in the same location; he, too, relied on the river for much of the boys' recreation.

The one agency-associated camp along the Cowpasture is the **Virginia Elks Youth Camp** located off of Cowpasture River Highway (Route 42), about ten miles south of Millboro Springs. The camp opened its doors in 1950 as a place that provides a balance of freedom and supervision for the boys and girls that attend. They focus on an appreciation for the outdoors, learning in a safe environment and the "development of skills and knowledge that contribute to wholesome recreation."⁸ As with the other camps, the Cowpasture River plays a central role in daily activities at the Elks camp. On the camp's website, the property is described as "...one of the most beautiful mountain areas of Virginia, in the heart of the Alleghenies just north of Clifton Forge in Bath County. Our camp location is described by the residents of the area as the prettiest hundred or so acres on the Cowpasture River. Nowhere is there to be found more majestic mountain ranges or more crystal clear mountain streams than those surrounding the Virginia Elks Youth Camp."⁹

Kent Ford, a native of the Allegheny Highlands, fondly recalled his days at **Camp Old Dominion**, a small boys camp once located almost a mile south of Peter's Bridge off of the Cowpasture River Highway (on property that Kent's father owned). Started in in the 1920s, Major McGruer and his wife, Alice, ran the camp from its opening to 1947 when the Major was ready to retire, including from his military job in DC. The thirty boys that attended the camp for eight weeks each summer enjoyed a number of activities such as swimming and boating, fishing, softball, archery, riflery and tennis. According to Kent, the Cowpasture played an integral role in everyday camp life. The campers' morning started at 7:00 with a daily, refreshing skinny dip. Following a morning softball game and before lunch, the boys took another quick swim. All of the boys wanted to fully enjoy the river and have the privilege of using the rope swing in the deeper pool of water, but they first had to pass a swimming test comprised of swimming to the opposite bank of the river and back. Over the years, the Major had built a small fleet of boats for the boys to use, including sliding seat racing sculls and canvas kayaks. Because the camp was on the far side of the river from the Cowpasture River Highway, one could only access it via boat or by driving through the riffles in a large vehicle. If there was a flood, there was no coming or going from the camp, making it difficult to feed hungry boys and young men should they have been on short supply!

Camp Kannata, a boys camp that had also been located off of Cowpasture River Highway, approximately halfway between Clifton Forge and Millboro Springs, differed slightly from the other camps in the region in that it had an academic component to its program along with the typical

camp activities. Kannata was started by Captain Herbert D. Deane, a teacher and coach at Augusta Military Academy located in Fort Defiance, Virginia. Boys who attended Camp Kannata, most of whom attended Augusta Military Academy during the school year, did so either for college preparation or for remedial work in a subject in which they were “deficient.” The academics were coupled along with the opportunity of participating in outdoor activities. After a morning of class, boys had the chance to swim, canoe, hike and ride. The camp boasted five miles of river frontage along the Cowpasture which included “some of the best bass and pike fishing in Virginia....and a ‘big hole’ for swimming...”¹⁰ A 1934 camp brochure states, “Our river is absolutely unpolluted.”¹¹ At some point in its history, Camp Kannata moved to a location off of Rt. 625, north of Millboro Springs, but remained on the Cowpasture River. Camp Kanata operated until sometime in the late 1950s.

The summer of 2015, a new camp was started along the banks of the Cowpasture. **Camp River’s Bend** opened its doors to a hundred boys, offering activities such as swimming, canoeing and fishing on the river, as well as archery, riflery, baseball and other land sports. The concept of the camp, started by Matthew Richardson and Charlie Williams, with the strong support of many, came into being after a boys camp in Goshen closed its doors that winter. Forces came together to create the camp in a very short period of time. Located on what’s known as Nimbacova, a property located close to Nimrod Hall, the camp boasts over a mile of river frontage from which the camp’s name is derived and is a focal point of camp life.

Interestingly, there has been renewed interest in summer camps in recent years as technology continues to play a bigger role in the lives of young people, especially with the pandemic having driven children indoors. Like their predecessors at the turn of the 20th century, parents once again want to see their children have greater exposure to the outdoors as smart devices and computers consume their lives, often keeping them indoors.

Much of the beauty and recreation of our local camps still in existence comes from the Cowpasture River. Without it and the surrounding mountains and forests, the natural camp experience would be lost. Anyone can swim in a pool, but the chance to slip into the crystal-clear green waters of the Cowpasture is a privilege that should not be overlooked or taken for granted. Clean and clear river water is a must for us and for our future generations.

Footnotes

- 1 [Children’s Nature: The Rise of the American Summer Camp](#)
- 2 Ibid
- 3 Alkulana website
- 4 CMS 1933 brochure
- 5 Ibid
- 6 Camp Wallawhatoola website
- 7 Camp Nimrod for Boys Brochure
- 8 Virginia Elks Youth Camp website
- 9 Ibid
- 10 Camp Kannata 1934 brochure
- 11 ibid



Camp Mont Shenandoah Summer Campers Crossing the Cowpasture River on Horseback (1942)

What It's Like to be a CRPA Board Member

Puggy Farmer — So why would I want to serve on the CRPA Board of Directors? Well, there are many reasons, and a good one for young people is resume building and networking. But what about me in my late 70s and still teaching school? Why am I on my second go around as a board member? The river is the reason! The Cowpasture River, arguably the cleanest river in Virginia, is at my doorstep, and I want it to stay that way.

I first heard of the CRPA in a newspaper article about protecting the river from pipe discharge. I immediately wanted to be a member of this group. I joined, assisted in a river clean-up, and talked to people truly dedicated to a clean river. I loved it. From there it was a smooth transition into assisting monitors in the water checking underwater bugs and culturing water samples for bacteria. These folks I worked with were not armchair warriors, they were dead serious about protecting the river and monitoring its health. They inspired me.

From that first year of monitoring, it took several years to become a board member of this organization, which I deeply respect. I have never regretted a minute of the many hours monitoring the water, meeting people who truly love the river and working on committees throughout the years dedicated to preserving the river and educating people on the importance of a clean river.

If you want to help preserve the Cowpasture, certainly become a member, but if you want to join the leadership of this outstanding association, don't hesitate to become a member of the board of directors. It will always be something you will be proud of, and as they say, hang your hat on!

Linda Cauley — The CRPA continues to exist because of two things: you, the members, and the board. Being a member is easy – pay your dues, show up at the fun events, and enjoy the river. Being a board member is not easy, but neither is it difficult. Meetings are painless and only four times per year. It is a treat to get to know board members better. Lynne keeps things running like the proverbial well-oiled machine. But here's the thing... several of the board members have served multiple terms, and none of us are getting any younger. Coming up with viable candidates for the board who have the skills we need to remain a healthy organization is sometimes a challenge.

We need to be proactive in educating the community about water quality, continue to work to monitor the quality, grow our membership, and, with some upcoming initiatives, also grow our bank account. Current board members are being asked to be more involved, and they are meeting the challenge. What we need now is for our membership to be more involved. The CRPA is not just a social club for landowners along the river. We are a political action group, a scientific community, a cluster of educators, and an ensemble of marketers – all serving the primary mission of protecting the river we love. We need members to offer their skills and time to serve on committees and volunteer to help with projects. And, given these multiple purposes, we need board members with skills that directly support these things and can move us into the future. We need more of you.

CRPA has not been standing still. Thanks to some generous donations and leadership of a few key people, we are moving forward with a serious plan to regularly monitor the water quality of the Cowpasture. Our education efforts have grown from the Bill Hardbarger Scholarship at Mountain

Gateway Community College to also offering the William Kent Ford, Jr. Memorial Scholarship to graduates of all three high schools in the watershed. We are funding educational projects at the local libraries and have offered to help teachers with funding for environmental education activities. We sponsor a wonderful artists' retreat at Ft. Lewis Lodge thanks to the Cowdens and a board member who continue to market this concept. We can never be complacent about our accomplishments – proud but not contented that “this is enough.” All organizations must evolve or they eventually die out. The work this organization does is too important to allow this to happen.

To look and continue to move forward, the board is thinking more strategically about how we add board members. We need people with some serious skills who are willing to put them to use in serving the CRPA. We want to broaden representation on the board and bring in new members to help lead the organization. If you are interested in serving on the board, please make it known to Lynne or Elizabeth. But also be prepared to honestly discuss what skills you have and how much time you can devote to CRPA business. The board is an affable, friendly group, but it is more than just a social club. It is this “more than” that will guide the composition of future boards.

I don't say this to discourage you but rather to encourage you to get more involved. My time on the board has been mostly a joy and always an honor. Getting together with other people who love the river and the land surrounding it and who are thoughtful about how we might best serve the river is humbling and invigorating. I leave each meeting knowing more than when I entered. It is challenging in the best way. I have one more year to be a part of this incredible group. I am sad to think of May 2025 when I will hand over my several roles to others. But I will be ready to do so because I believe that some of you, with broader skills, will rise to the challenges of serving on the board.

PROXY BALLOT FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

IF YOU CANNOT PARTICIPATE at the CRPA Annual Meeting, please return this proxy vote by April 30, 2024 along with any unpaid dues* to: **CRPA, Box 215, Millboro, VA 24460.**

I am unable to participate in the 2024 Annual Meeting and do hereby name the following Director (circle one) to be my/our Proxy.

| | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Dick Brooks | David Burnett | Tuck Carter | Linda Cauley | Caryl Cowden |
| Elizabeth Dudley | Puggy Farmer | Tom Reycraft | Catherine Roland | Harold Smestad |
| Ann Warner | Tom Watts | Nan Mahone Wellborn | Andrew Young | |
| Signed _____ | Date _____ | Signed _____ | Date _____ | |
| Signed _____ | Date _____ | Signed _____ | Date _____ | |

The CRPA Nominating Committee has chosen **Denise Revercomb (3-year term)** to fill the open and/or expiring board member term. **(See Denise's article on Page 13).**

Please note: Unsigned proxies will be void. Unpaid dues will disqualify your vote. If you contributed to the 2023 annual campaign, or have sent dues in 2024, you are in good standing with respect to the vote.

***In case you're behind in your dues, please review the membership categories on the back page of this newsletter, fill out the form, and then mail it back to us. Thanks!**





SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024

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

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 5:00—6:00 pm | Social Hour and Raffle |
| 6:00—7:00 pm | Catered Dinner |
| 7:00—8:00 pm | Presentation and Election of New Board Member |

WHERE:

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

COST

\$40 per person — please pay in advance

\$25 for children (ages 12 and under)

No refunds after May 11, 2024

RSVP: Sign-up and pay online at www.cowpastureriver.org. If you have any problems, send an email to director@cowpastureriver.org or call 540-620-7795. Registration deadline is May 11, 2024 (or, AT LEAST email your intentions by that date — we have to guarantee the number attending to the caterer).

Meet Our New Board Nominee



Denise Revercomb — I grew up in Augusta County, just outside of Staunton, and loved life on our small farm where we had cows, sheep, the occasional pig or two and a horse. I moved to Roanoke for nursing school where I met my husband Jim. After working a few years as a registered nurse, I became a stay at home mother to our four sons.

We live in Roanoke but are spending more time at our cabin on the Cowpasture River now that Jim has retired. We were introduced to the river by our longtime friends and neighbors in Roanoke, the Lynns. Glovie and Toes were so generous to invite us (and our four children!) to their place on the river often. Back then, they traveled frequently, so they gave us keys to their cabin, gate and pickup truck. We used it often and fell in love. (We still have the keys!)

We bought our property on River Road in 1997 and spent ten years camping before building our cabin. We enjoy hiking, canoeing and fishing there, and our children continue to use it with our six grandchildren. It has become our favorite gathering place as a family. I have been a longtime member of the Roanoke Valley Garden Club, have served on the board of Garden Club of Virginia and now enjoy being a member of the Warm Springs Valley Garden Club.

Donors to the 2023-2024 Annual Campaign

Our 2023—2024 annual campaign kicked off on November 1, 2023 and will run through October 31, 2024. Listed below are the donors who have contributed to this campaign since our last newsletter was published. **New members are highlighted in bold.** (Some donors have asked that their names not be published.)

BEDROCK PATRON

George and Frances Phillips
Tim and Lynn Pistell

WALLAWHATOOLA SOCIETY

Michael and Patricia Christian
Celia and Jim Rutt
Michael Wildasin

WATERSHED STEWARD

Keith Arnold
Lucius and Pam Bracey
John Fowler
Nolan and Hope Nicely

HEADWATERS CIRCLE

Brooks Construction
Lissy Bryan
Debbie Garrett Bush
John DeVenny
Anne and James Doll
Puggy and Kathy Farmer
Anne W. Koethcke
Roger Wilson
John Wood

RIVER GUARDIAN

John and Bettie Alford
George and Anna Beckwith
Jim and Trisha English
Christie Hardbarger

Liz Hereford

George B. Jennings, III
Bill Jones and Lee Elliott
Terry and Mary Margaret King
Marc Koslen
William Lipscomb
Charles and Linda Lunsford
Bonnie and Will Mahone
Anne and Percy Montague
Norwood and Susan Morrison

Dave and Sandra Peters
David Peterson
James and Sarah Redington
Linda Schlachter
John H. Turner, Jr.
Eddie and Sheri Walters
Paige Pistell Witte
George Wood
Robert and Mina Wood

STREAMSIDE LEVEL

Deborah and Douglas Albrecht
Mark Arnold Family
Jennifer DeVenny
Bob May
Ann Shelton
David and Carolyn Van Lear
Bill and Eleanor Washburn

INDIVIDUAL LEVEL

Greg and Kelly Boyle
Patricia Brodowski

Kevin Camden

Meghan Cooper
Steve Cory
Teresa DiMarco
Lea Doise

Lizzie Dudley
Candice Dupoise
Katherine Dupoise
F.W. Evans
Will Fairley
Christina Farmer
Kay Gerehart
Jane Goodman
John A. Hancock
Carol Hochkeppel
Rachel Johnson

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Elizabeth Hilton Lasley
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Ed and Pam Ledzinski

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Terrell McDermid
Sarah Muse
Carolyn Ratcliffe
Christine Raymond

Chris Richardson
Catherine Rotolo

Robyn Ryan

Peg Sheridan
Lois Stephens
Winifred Stephenson

(continued)

Donors to the 2023-2024 Annual Campaign

Cynda Temple

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JUNIOR MEMBER

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Lt. Samuel Davidson:

by Peter Kirkpatrick

Dr. Larry Denius:

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IN HONOR OF

Julies Gaines Birthday:

by Anne Doll

Donation Levels

Endowment Contributor — \$3000 or more, designated specifically for the Endowment Fund

Bedrock Patron — \$1,500 or more

Wallawhatoola Level — \$1,000—\$1,499

Watershed Steward — \$500—\$999

Headwaters Circle — \$250—\$499

River Guardian — \$100—\$249

Streamside Level — \$50—\$99

Individual Level — \$25—\$49

Junior Member (Under 15) — \$12

Memorial Contributions — Any amount in memory of a loved one.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

We are excited to support two summer programs at the Highland County Public Library this year. The theme of the programs is “outdoor adventure” and will include elementary-aged kids, as well as teens.

The library will be collaborating with “Talewise,” an educational group who does onsite interactive science programming through storytelling. They use live, hands-on experimentation to talk through the parts of certain ecosystems that are “lost or unseen” but are true treasures. The library hopes to also include nature journaling into the program for the teens. They are excited at how much their teen program is growing, and they truly appreciate the financial support from CRPA.



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Garth Newel Piano Quartet

Emerging Artist Alumni Concert
May 4

Archduke Weekend with Brandon Morales, Tasha Koontz & GNPO
May 24-26



Brandon Morales



Tasha Koontz

Photo by David Perry

Yerba Mate Tea Concert | May 11
Viennese Café Concert | May 18



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Your donations are tax deductible!

☒ \$25 Adult Membership (minimum annual dues
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☐ \$50 Streamside Level Donation

☐ \$100 River Guardian Donation

☐ \$250 Headwaters Circle Donation

☐ \$500 Watershed Steward Donation

☐ \$1,000 Wallawhatoola Society Donation

☐ \$1,500 + Bedrock Patron Donation

☐ \$3,000+ Endowment Contributor Donation

☐ Memorial Donation \$ _____

in memory of _____

☐ \$12 Junior Membership Dues

☐ I am a NEW member!

☐ I am RENEWING

☐ This is a gift membership for _____

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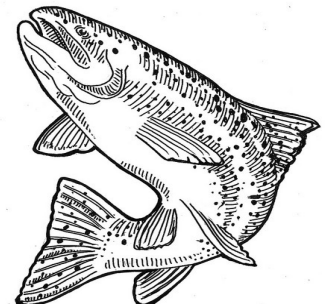
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☐ I prefer to NOT have my name published as a contributor.

☐ Please send my newsletter by email version only.

☐ I am interested in becoming a volunteer.



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