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The River Runs

News from the Cowpasture River Preservation Association

Inside This Issue:

A winter photo of the Cowpasture River shot from the middle of the swinging bridge that crosses the river at Griffith. The photo was taken a few years ago by George Beckwith, Jr.

Please send us your best photos of the Cowpasture River and the wildlife that accompanies it so that we might include them in our newsletter, as well as on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

From the President

Dear Fellow CRPA Members,

The year is drawing to a close. It's that time when writers, podcasters and pretty much anyone with an opinion give us their "best of…" and "worst of…" lists. For this newsletter, however, I've compiled my own version of a year-end list encompassing gratitude, sadness and thoughts for the future.

First, here's what I'm grateful for. Our association has had its all-time best year financially. We've added significantly to our endowment, qualified for new grants and boosted our membership numbers to new highs. I am grateful that we currently have the best water quality data in our long history. And I am grateful to each of you who has volunteered and supported our work.

Second, I am saddened by the number of members who passed away this year. We lost Lucius Bracey, Jim Revercomb, Otis Meade, George Beckwith, Rachel Johnson, Robert May and Frankie Apistolas—and there are others I may have missed. This is the largest loss of members/volunteers that any of us can remember, and it reminds us just how fragile our world is.

Finally, looking forward to 2026, we will continue to focus on CRPA for long-term stability, including improving our financial management systems, strengthening our governance policies, deepening our membership engagement and taking steps to ensure CRPA's ongoing health and viability. Not easy, but completely doable. And you'll hear about our progress throughout the year.

Thank you all for every level of help that you provide. Have a terrific holiday season and I hope to see you in the new year.

Best,
Dick Brooks

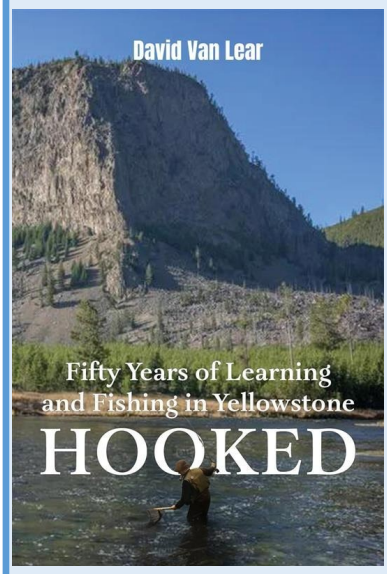
Executive Assistant's Corner

Thanks to your generosity, we are about to wrap up another successful annual campaign at the end of December. We sincerely thank all of you who have donated, and for those of you who still wish to do so, you can donate at **https://cowpastureriver.org/shop/donate/**. Those of you who have donated after our Fall newsletter went to press are listed on pages 14 and 15 of this newsletter. Any 2025 donations that come in after this newsletter goes to press will be listed in our upcoming Spring 2026 newsletter.

We wanted to make you aware of a change this year. Our annual pledge campaign has always run from November 1 until October 31 of the following year, so it has been divided between two years. This can be very confusing since we have a regular fiscal year that runs January to December, as does our budget. So for this year only, we have run a 14-month campaign. Going forward after this year, our campaign year, as well as our fiscal year and budget will all match. The new 12-month campaign cycle will begin on January 1, 2026 and will wrap up on December 31, 2026. Many of you have already donated in November or December 2025, and your membership is active throughout 2026.

Another area of confusion has been the definition of the "Endowment Contributor" level versus the "Bedrock Patron" level. Those who are categorized as an "Endowment Contributor" have donated $3,000 or more, but they specified that the donation must go specifically to our quasi-endowment fund. Those who donated at the Bedrock Patron level donated anywhere from $1,500 and beyond, but their donations go into the general fund, not the quasi-endowment fund.

Thanks to all of you, we had a very successful year financially. We could not pursue our goal of preserving the Cowpasture River without your support. You have our sincere appreciation.



CRPA member David Van Lear has written a new book titled **Hooked: Fifty Years of Learning and Fishing in Yellowstone**. It is mostly about his experiences in Yellowstone, but there is also a chapter about how he became addicted to fishing, thanks to the Cowpasture River. An excerpt from his publisher:

Hooked: Fifty Years of Learning and Fishing in Yellowstone invites readers into a captivating journey through five decades of fishing adventures from 1958 to 2008. The author, David Van Lear, shares his remarkable experiences, including thrilling encounters with grizzly bears and bison, as well as the exhilaration of landing 10-pound largemouth bass, brown trout, and rainbow trout. Each story is a testament to the beauty of nature and the profound connection forged through time spent on the water.

The book is available for purchase online at Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com.

Q4 Water Monitoring Update: Fall Highlights and What's Next

Andrew Young, Watershed Monitoring Coordinator

This fall, CRPA and Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance (ABRA) continued monthly water quality monitoring at 22 established sites throughout September, October, and November. Sampling these routine stations on schedule gives us a steady baseline that helps us track seasonal changes and spot longer-term trends across the Cowpasture watershed.

A big step forward this quarter was the addition of dissolved oxygen probes to three YSI ProDSS units, which means we can now record dissolved oxygen percent saturation at every routine site. Dissolved oxygen (DO) is one of the most important indicators of stream health. DO can be reduced by high water temperatures, organic pollution (including sewage, animal waste, and decomposing plant material or algae), excess nutrients that fuel blooms, and physical changes such as sedimentation or impoundments that slow water and alter habitat. Adding DO data increases our understanding of where conditions may be limiting for aquatic life and why.

Fall was our busiest field season to date. With volunteer help, we completed four full days of benthic macroinvertebrate surveys at a total of nine locations. Eight of those sites produced official Virginia Save Our Streams datasets. Low flows prevented sampling at three additional sites. These "bug surveys" remain one of the best ways to evaluate stream health because the macroinvertebrate community reflects water quality over time.

On October 27 and 28, CRPA and ABRA completed a two-day synoptic survey of nearly 70 tributary sites across the watershed. This watershed-wide snapshot helps us identify high-quality reference streams and flag places that may be under stress. This fall's results again showed exceptionally low conductivity in several tributaries, including Laurel Run near Burnsville (12.2 µS/cm) and North Branch Simpson Creek (13.7 µS/cm).

We also identified a few tributaries with conductivity readings high enough to warrant follow-up. Two streams stood out: Deer Run (387.8 µS/cm) and Sharvers Run (373.7 µS/cm). We are using the EPA's 300 µS/cm benchmark for Central Appalachian streams as a guide for concern. So far, Deer Run and Sharvers Run are the only locations we have seen above 300 µS/cm in the Cowpasture watershed. We will continue spot-checking these sites and prioritize them for lab sampling to determine if elevated conductivity is persistent.

For additional context from the synoptic survey, conductivity was relatively high in the James (440 µS/cm) and Jackson (546 µS/cm) near Iron Gate and Jackson (814 µS/cm) near the Jackson River Sports Complex Boat Ramp, while the Cowpasture at Evans Tract measured 191.8 µS/cm. Conductivity does not identify a specific pollutant by itself, but chronic elevation can be an early signal of changing conditions in a stream's health and helps us target follow-up sampling work.

Volunteer engagement remains a priority and a challenge, especially recruiting younger community members who can commit to recurring monitoring tasks. An October training at Evans Tract did bring in some new and younger volunteers, which is encouraging. Rebuilding school connections for water quality education is another important focus for winter and spring, and the EPA grant supports my time to help make that happen.

How members can help this next quarter:

- Volunteer recruitment, especially for weekly E. coli sampling each Thursday from roughly Memorial Day through Labor Day (results shared by Friday).
- Connections to local schools, teachers, and administrators for education and field opportunities.
- Suggestions for community events where CRPA/ABRA should table to reach more residents and recruit volunteers.

Questions or ideas are always welcome. Contact: **monitor@cowpastureriver.org**.

The work that provided the basis for this publication was supported by funding under an award with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The author and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Government.

Join Us for our Upcoming Field Trip

Wetlands Restoration in the Lower Cowpasture River Valley
Sunday, April 12, 2026 led by Michael Hayslett

Explore rare mountain wetlands and their fascinating aquatic wildlife. These special habitats are known as vernal pools, with Spring being the busiest time for these seasonal wetlands. Join us for a tour of three riparian conservation projects located within the lower Cowpasture River Valley. The conservation sites are located on the property of Cowpasture River Valley landowners who have been or are currently engaged in wetlands and riparian improvement projects. The tour will examine both the natural and constructed model of wetlands with their enhanced habitat. We will also discuss their ecology. In addition, we will visit one or two historical vernal pool wetland sites nearby.

Cost is $20 per person. Limit of 20 people total.

Email **director@cowpastureriver.org** in order to sign up. Logistical details will be provided at that time.

Education Committee Update

The CRPA Education Committee is always on the look-out for worthwhile programs that align with our CRPA values. A few months ago, the committee was approached for funding assistance for a new program in the area entitled Bath County Nature Play. The program serves Bath County kids, ages 3 to 7, for a one-day per week program which lasts for eight weeks. The program introduces the kids to the concept of nature and the tremendous benefits it has on child development. One of the program's leaders, CRPA member Teece Nowell, ran a similar program for several years in Maryland, so she brought a significant amount of prepackaged knowledge to the program.

After asking several questions and doing a significant amount of research, the committee was happy to offer their support. The eight-week pilot program began at the end of September. The kids were exposed to the unique beauty of the Cowpasture River since the program took place at Fort Lewis Lodge near the river's banks. River play, river education, river rock art, and river storytelling were woven into the program. Enjoy these photos of the kiddos at play!

Watershed Scale Physical Chemistry Monitoring 2013-2018

by William K. Jones and Roger Baroody

Introduction

The Cowpasture River in Virginia is generally considered one of the cleanest rivers in the eastern United States. This is primarily due to the absence of industries and urban development within the watershed. Land use is largely agricultural – National Forest and livestock. Water quality monitoring may be designed to establish a range of base-line values at various sampling sites or to look at how different parameters respond to changing flow conditions (storms) and seasonal patterns. The design of the water monitoring programs has included invertebrate collecting to document any events that may have been detrimental to the overall aquatic life in the river segments, bacteria sampling at different sites, and measurements of chemical parameters.

There are older records for water quality in the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality database. Kent Ford started a water quality monitoring program for the Cowpasture River Preservation Association (CRPA) with an emphasis on invertebrate inventory (bug picking) in 2006 and bacteria sampling beginning in 2009. Polly Newlon received a grant to add basic chemistry measurements at monthly intervals at 11 stations within the watershed and started sampling in June 2013 and discontinued the chemical monitoring in July 2014. The objective was to establish baseline values for the watershed that could be used to document potential future changes in water quality if land use changes should occur. Roger Baroody took over chemical monitoring program in October 2014 and discontinued monitoring in August 2018. The US Geological Survey maintained a data logger on the Cowpasture at Scotchtown for continuous monitoring of basic physical chemistry parameters for four years starting August 2017 and this data is very interesting in showing the effects of storm events on the water chemistry.

The Cowpasture River drainage basin is primarily underlaid by carbonate rocks in the valleys and less soluble sandstones and shales on the ridge tops and slopes. The upper half of the watershed is a typical karst terrane with caves, sinkholes, and large springs. The inorganic water chemistry in the main stems of the watershed is a calcium-bicarbonate water type with calcium ions the dominate cation and bicarbonate ions the dominant anion. Under low-flow (base flow) conditions most of the flow is from ground water discharging at springs and seeps and this water is highly mineralized so specific conductance is higher when stream flow is low. When the mineral contribution becomes diluted during storm events the conductivity becomes lower. The temperature-corrected conductivity measurements (specific conductance) correlates roughly with total dissolved solids (about 65% of the specific conductance reading will approximate the total dissolved solids). The results from our once per month sampling are mostly from average to low flows and present a picture of the conditions at the place and time of sampling.

Cowpasture/Shaws Junction at Liberty

We wish to thank the landowners who have graciously allowed us access to the river at our monitoring stations and to members of the CRPA for assisting with the sample collections.

Monthly Monitoring at Stations Throughout the Watershed

The monitoring stations (Figures 1a and 1b)were chosen to capture a complete picture of the watershed from the headwaters of the Bullpasture River at McDowell to near the mouth of the basin at Sharon. Chemical parameters measured in the field include: water temperature (YSI meter), pH (Hach colormetric wheel), electrical conductivity (YSI Pro30 Conductivity meter), and dissolved oxygen (YSI Pro20 Dissolved Oxygen meter). Discharge at the USGS gauges at Williamsville (Bullpasture) and near Clifton (Cowpasture) is noted for the sampling times as well as observation of water clarity. Parameters measured in the lab include nitrogen, phosphate, and chloride (Hach colormetric kits).

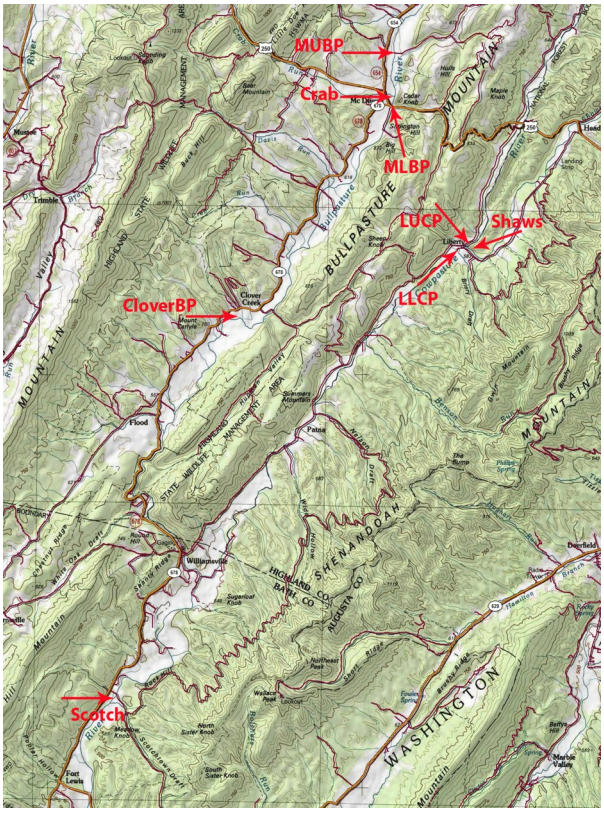


Figure 1a. Station locations in the northern section of the monitoring area. McDowell Upper Bullpasture (MUBP), Crab Run (Crab), McDowell Lower Bullpasture (MLBP), Clover Creek (CloverBP), Upper Cowpasture at Liberty (LUCP), Shaws Fork at Liberty (Shaws), Lower Cowpasture at Liberty (LLCP), Cowpasture at Scotchtown (Scotch).

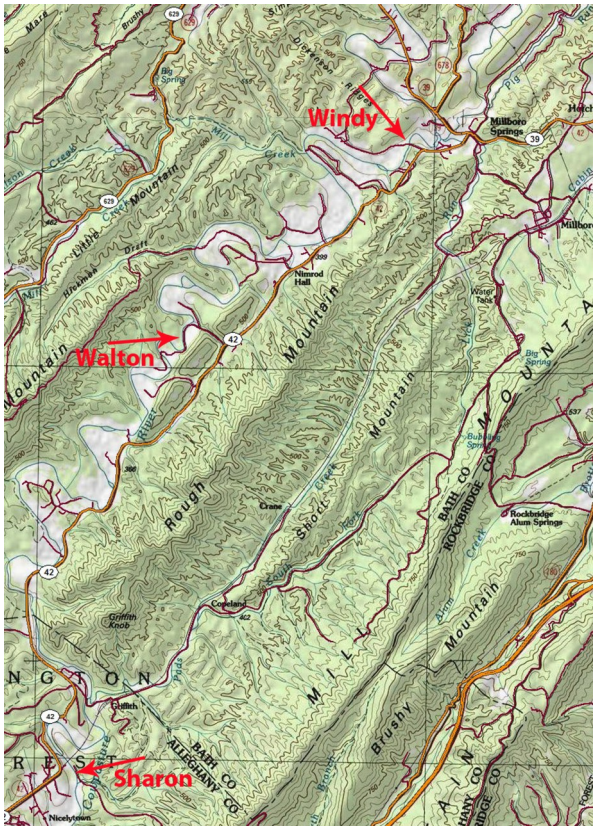


Figure 1b. Station locations in the southern section of the monitoring area. Cowpasture at Windy Cove Lower (Windy), Cowpasture at Walton Tract (Walton), Cowpasture at Upper Sharon (Sharon).

The dissolved oxygen (DO) data is not presented here, but the majority of the measurements indicated levels above saturation. Absolute DO values fall as the water temperature increases so the recorded data includes the oxygen concentration in mg/L and the calculated percent of saturation adjusted for water temperature. Most of sample sites are in fast moving stretches of the river and the water is well aerated at these points. The lowest recorded DO was 80.5 % of saturation at Shaws Fork on 10/9/2914 when water levels were very low and the measurement point is in a slow-moving reach of the stream.

We will use “box plots” to present an easy visual look at the statistical range of the parameters and a way to compare the results from the different monitoring stations. The mean (average) and median (half of the values are higher and half are lower) are both measures of the central tendency of the data set and will be the same if the data are “normally distributed.” In the standard box plot half of the measured values fall within the “box” and the line within the box represents the median. The example presented in Figure 2 presents a visual way of statistically characterizing the data. Box plots will be used in the rest of this report.

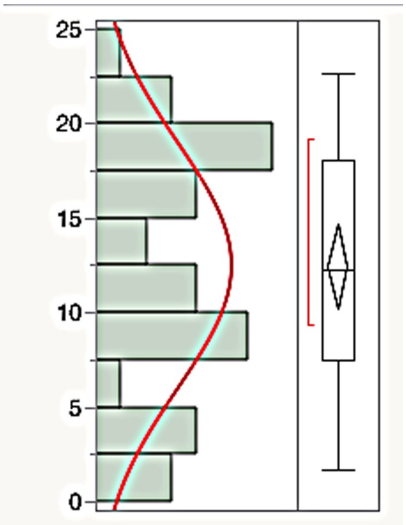


Figure 2. Here is the temperature (Centigrade) data for the Bullpasture River at Clover Creek. The histogram showing the distribution of values fitted with a normal distribution curve (red) is on the left. The data is not exactly a normal distribution (the mean and median are not the same for one thing) but it is close. The box on the right shows the median value (13.2 - horizontal line in the middle of the box). The bottom of the box shows the 25% mark (6.5 - lower quartile) and the top of the box shows the upper 75% mark (20.6 -upper quartile). Fifty percent of the measured temperatures fall within the box. The ends of the whiskers show the range for about 98% of the data. Outliers, if present, show as circles above and below the whiskers and represent the maximum and minimum values if outside of the 98% range.Now for the diamond. The widest point shows the mean (13.49) and the top and bottom tips show the 95% confidence range for the mean (10.9 -16.1). The red bracket shows the shortest half or the most dense 50% of the values.

The next four graphics (Figures 3 – 6) present a summary of the distribution of the measured values for temperature, pH, specific conductance, and nitrate at each of the eleven stations. This type of presentation uses “box plots” to allow a visual comparison of differences and similarities between the sites. Box plots are one way of showing the distribution (range and median) for a collection of measurements.

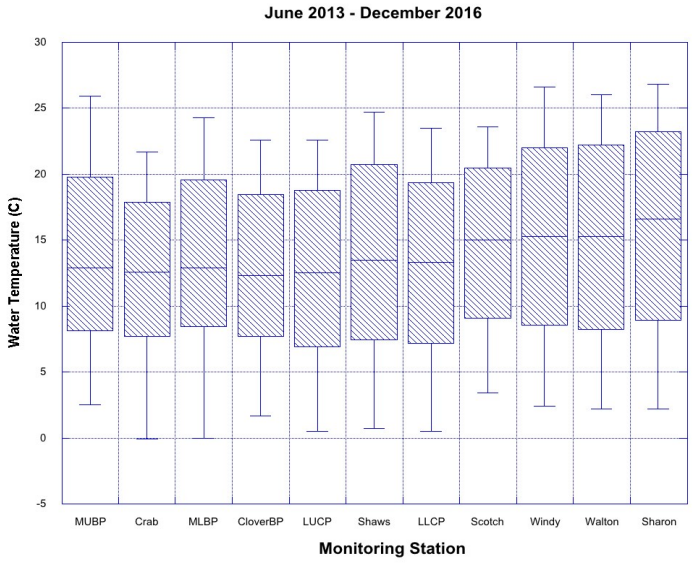


Figure 3. Box plots showing the distribution of measured water temperatures at the eleven monitoring stations. The temperature measurements range from -0.1 to 27 degrees C. Over all there is little difference between the stations but perhaps a slight warming trend as you go downstream.

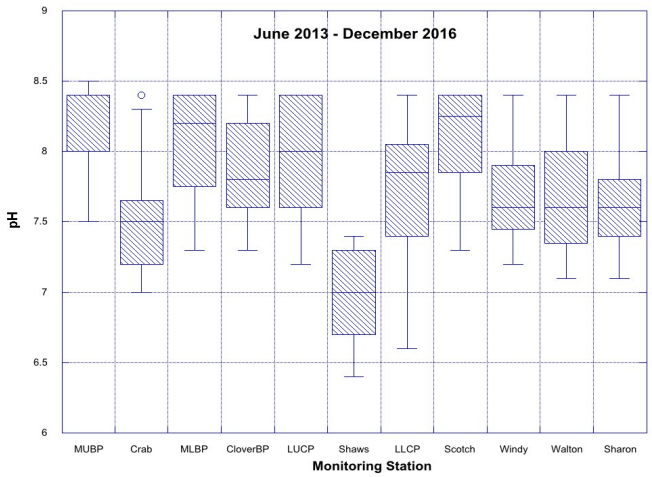


Figure 4. Box plots showing the distribution of pH measurements. A lot of these measurements are above 8 and the colormetric method used is not very accurate above 8.2. The highest the scale can read is 8.4 so a lot of these measurements are truncated at 8.4 to 8.5. The USGS continuous monitoring at station USGS02015729 showed some pH values as high as 9.0 so our upper range estimates are probably too low. The two stations that appear different are Crab Run at McDowell and Shaws Fork at Liberty. These lower pH values probably represent differences in the bed-rock geology of the basin and the nature of ground-water recharge to the streams.

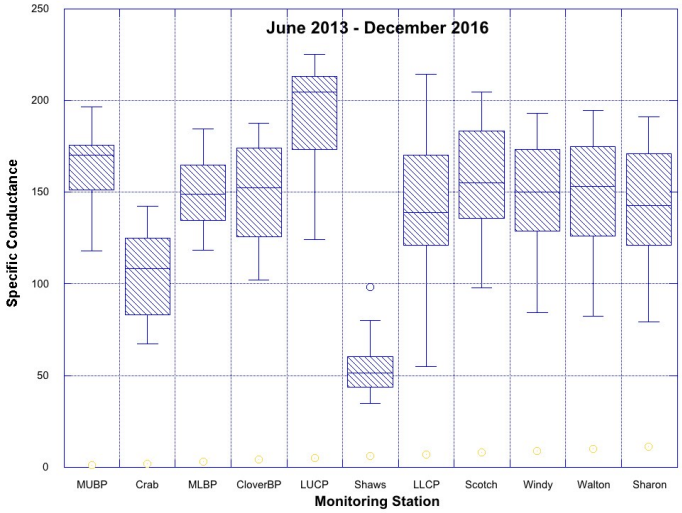


Figure 5. Box plots showing distribution of specific conductance measurements at the different stations. Specific conductance is essentially a measurement of total dissolved solids in the water. Most of the monitoring points drain areas fed by carbonate (karst) aquifers and the water is highly mineralized. Crab Run and Shaws Fork are apparently situated on less soluble clastic rocks.

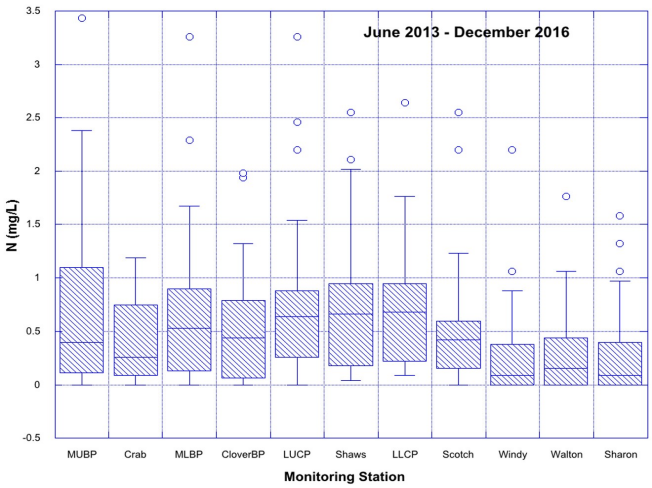


Figure 6. Box plots showing the distribution of nitrate measurements. Many of the values are at or below the analytical threshold. The values for the three stations at Liberty may be slightly above the other sites and the number of higher outliers may be due to seasonal variation, discharge, movement of livestock, and poultry operations. Values for phosphate and chloride were also generally very low.

Liberty

The next graphs (Figures 7 – 9) present a more detailed look at the effect of discharge and season on samples from the three stations at Liberty. Note that Shaws Fork consistently had lower pH and conductivity values than the Cowpasture River stations.

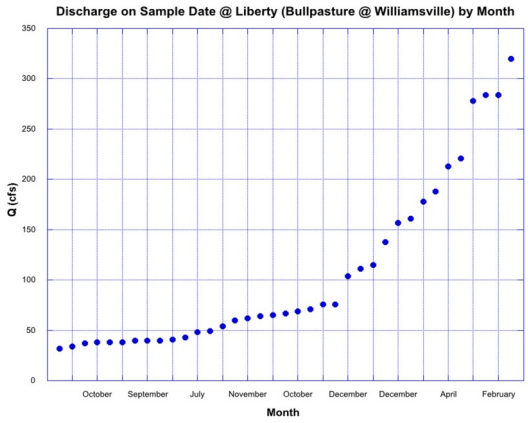


Figure 7. Plot showing distribution of flows by month based on sample date and time at Liberty. Note that over half of the samples are at low flow and none represent very high water. All of the higher (>100 cfs) flow samples are from the winter months when water temperatures are low. This pattern will compromise the regression models presented in the next few figures. In theory the samples collected at lower flow levels will have a higher percentage ground water and therefore higher electrical conductivity and pH.

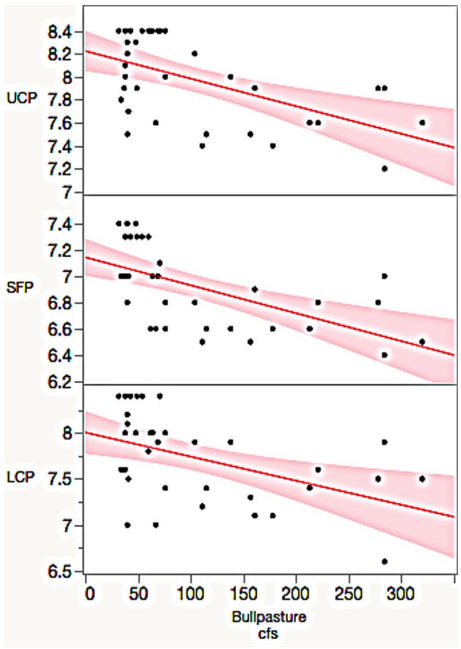


Figure 8. Correlations for pH and discharge at Upper Cowpasture (UCP), Shaws Fork (SFP), and Lower Cowpasture (LCP). The general patters suggest dilution of ground water by surface runoff with increasing discharge. Note the clustering of data points to the left (lower discharge) side of the graph and the wider spacing of data points as discharge increases. This can lead to unrealistically high correlation coefficients but the pattern is at least consistent for all three sites.

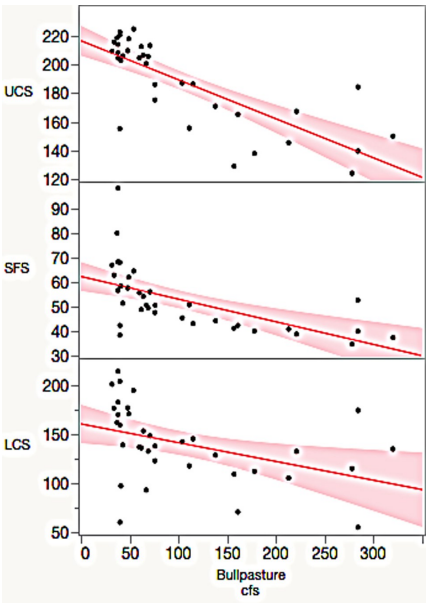


Figure 9 above. Correlations for specific conductance and discharge at Liberty. The same pattern of apparent dilution of more highly mineralized ground water with increasing flow appears to hold for these plots. The same limitations posed by the uneven distribution of sample values with regard to discharge also apply to this plot.

One artifact of the sampling protocol is that although samples were collected monthly the dates of collections range throughout the month and sampling trips were usually timed when the weather was pleasant. This has resulted in the bulk of the samples being collected during lower flow conditions. Most of the higher flow samples were also collected during the winter months with colder water temperatures and may make it more difficult to separate potential effects from discharge or temperature.

Figure 10 presents a more detailed look at the different ranges for Specific Conductance at the three stations at liberty. Shaws Fork consistently had lower conductivity and the Upper Cowpasture had higher conductivity and the Lower Cowpasture site was a mixture of the two waters.

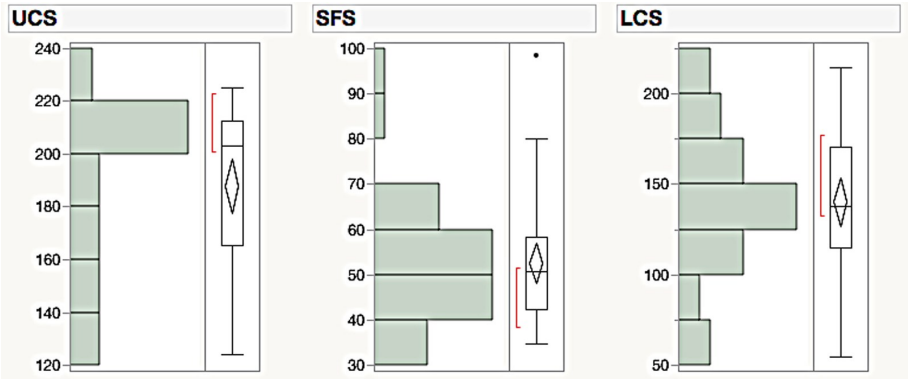


Figure 10. Distribution of monthly values of specific conductance at Liberty (Upper Cowpasture, Shaws Fork, Lower Cowpasture). Units are uS/cm@25C.

Conclusions

The studied physical chemistry parameters are generally very uniform for the eleven sampling stations with values within expected ranges in response to changes in discharge and water temperature. The main factors controlling the amount and composition of the dissolved solids (mineralization) of the water is the bedrock geology of the sub-basins. Only Crab Run at McDowell and Shaws Fork at Liberty appear to have any discernable differences.

The main reason that the Cowpasture River water quality is so good is that the overall watershed is very rural with no industries or intensive agricultural operations. Much of the flood plains are in pasture or open land so the summer water temperatures sometimes exceed the ideal limits for trout and will be associated with a decline in dissolved oxygen in the longer pools. Heavy rainfall events will generate some sediment load and probably an increase in bacteria and agricultural nutrients, but this is temporary and somewhat diluted by the high discharge. Grazing livestock have direct access to the streams in some areas. This is obviously not ideal but so far does not appear to overwhelm the assimilative capacity of the river at normal flows. De-icing chemicals from the roads could potentially wash into the river along with herbicides sprayed on roadsides and power lines, but these have not been looked for in the water monitoring to date. Contaminates transported by this type of runoff are classified as “non-point sources” and are controlled by applying best-management-practices in agricultural and forestry operations.

The original goal of establishing base line values for the Cowpasture River watershed has been met. Benthic and bacterial sampling should continue on the present schedule, but it would be desirable to collect more samples at high water levels and monitor a storm event to capture the rising and falling limbs of the hydrograph. Additional monitoring of chemical parameters should be carried on as funding becomes available. Any proposed construction or land-use changes within the watershed should trigger the establishment of upstream/downstream monitoring stations.

More information on this complicated subject may be found in many references available online including:

Study and Interpretation of the Chemical Characteristics of Natural Water
U.S. Geological Survey, Water Supply Paper 2254
By John D. Hem
https://pubs.usgs.gov/wsp/wsp2254/

There is an additional section of this report which will be printed in the Spring 2026 newsletter.

Love Letters to the River from Camp Mont Shenandoah (CMS) Campers

Letters written last summer by CMS campers after learning about water quality with CRPA

There are few vessels on this Earth that support all of life's intricacies in the way that the Cowpasture River does. Her refreshing waters invite people to jump and shout and embrace their energetic sides, to have FUN. And she teaches balance with this, offering reverence when the midafternoon sun's rays glow through to ancient, weathered stones, when her calm waters support glowing orbs of light and hope atop. She is wise and full of light and love. We love the Cowpasture, not by chance, but by choice. – by Henley S.

You are the best river I've ever jumped into. I love swimming, especially in the Cowpasture. You are my second home, my safe place. Every time I jump in the river, I feel complete! I love how clean, how sparkly, and bright you are, my dear Cowpasture River. I was very sad when I couldn't swim in the river. I missed you so much! I LOVE THE RIVER! – by Isabel B.

The simple joys of your riverbend have made my summers magical every year. Looking back, I can picture the smiles while jumping into your haven, and I can hear the excited cheers. You bring me serenity and endless peace, and your waters are fantastic, to say the least. Thank you for these memoires and for the love you've shared. I will help to protect you, and for you I will always care. – by Mary Frances R.

Thank you for housing countless hours of sun-filled, fun-filled joy. Your waters, cool and clear, make my worries float away. You have helped me through homesickness and been a light in my days. When my time comes to leave, the river keeps my heart. – by Avery R.

In Remembrance of George Beckwith, Jr.

Born in Virginia and raised in New Bern, North Carolina, George grew up on the Trent River fishing on his boat long before he could drive. He spent so much time on the river that he was nicknamed “Fish.” George was the son of Kathy Dodge and the late Dr. George Hughes Beckwith, Sr. A graduate of UNC Wilmington with a degree in Marine Science, George lived a life shaped by deep connections—to family, nature, and the water. He was a lifelong outdoorsman who found purpose in both the quiet patience of fishing and the adventure of the hunt.

George earned his U.S. Coast Guard Captain’s License early in his career, competed in the bass fishing circuit, and founded Down East Guide Service. He and his wife, Anna, built and managed Dragin Fly Sportfishing charters in Costa Rica. The Dragin Fly, and the family it created, including his crew, friends and clients, provided over 18 years of memories.

On July 3, 2022, while fishing off Quepos, Costa Rica, George achieved a lifetime goal when he set the IGFA Men’s 3-kg Line Class World Record for Pacific Snook.

A gifted storyteller, George brought his experiences to life through his vivid writing, numerous published articles, and television appearances. Friends and family will remember his steadfast loyalty, generosity, wit, and the joy he took in mentoring others—whether in fishing, hunting or life.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Anna Barrios Beckwith; his mother, Kathy Dodge; brother, Henry Beckwith; nephews, AJ and Matthew Barrios; and chosen nephews, Merritt and Matthew Roberts. He also leaves behind his loyal dogs, Gypsy Soul and Riley.

George often said, “I might not be here for a long time, but I’m here for a good time.” Though he’s cast his final line, his spirit endures—in the rustle of leaves, the ripple of water, and the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

Tight lines, calm seas, and God bless.

George Beckwith, Jr. was truly a one-of-a-kind person and a good friend to anyone lucky enough to cross his path. My first meeting of George & Anna was some years ago on a wetlands field trip I led for the CRPA. While exploring an ancient pond near Williamsville, George stuck out his open hands to reveal he'd nonchalantly found a previously undocumented salamander for Bath County - to my astonishment! George's laugh was infectious and his enthusiasm for the natural world was exemplary. He was a champion and patron of wildlife & fisheries conservation, at home and abroad! His genuine dedication to conserving nature was demonstrated by how much he loved culturing the wilds of their family farm along the Cowpasture River. It was a pleasure and a privilege to help George develop wild habitats at Upbridge Farm. Our family enjoyed so many occasions of George's gracious hosting there at Griffith, as well as fun coastal adventures with him "down east" in Oriental, N.C. - relishing the masterfully cooked meats from his grills and kitchen! We share in the sadness of losing him, the honor of time spent with him, and the comfort of his memory with all of his family and friends. Thank you, George, for the gift of yourself that you gave to our world!

Mike & Kylie Hayslett, Alex & Eli Mohler

Thank You To Our Loyal Watershed Members and Donors

We are grateful for the additional donations we have received since our Fall 2025 newsletter went to press. Those donors are listed below, and **new members/donors are highlighted in bold.**

Total donations for the 2024-2025 Annual Campaign have totaled $138,008.93 thus far. The campaign began on November 1, 2024 will wrap up on December 31, 2025. Any additional donations that come in during the month of December will be published in the Spring 2026 newsletter.

Our annual pledge campaign has always run from November 1 until October 31 of the following year, so it has been divided between two years. This can be confusing since we have a regular fiscal year that runs January to December, as does our budget. So for this year only, we have run a 14-month campaign. Going forward after this year, our campaign year, as well as our fiscal year and budget will all match. The new 12-month campaign cycle will begin on January 1, 2026 and wrap up on December 31, 2026.

Additional Donors for the 2024-2025 Annual Campaign

ENDOWMENT CONTRIBUTOR

The Lucius H. Bracey, Jr. Trust

BEDROCK PATRON

Beirne Carter Foundation
Camp Mont Shenandoah
Charlottesville Area Community Foundation
(Mike and Peggy Van Yahres)
Traci and Mett Miller
Tom and Sera Reycraft
Truman Thomas Semans
Tom and Patti Watts

WALLAWHATOOLA SOCIETY

John and Caryl Cowden
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Kirby
Ann Warner
Jane and Charlie Wood

WATERSHED STEWARD

Margo Clegg
Anne and James Doll
Mary V. Eisenstadt
Talfourd H. Kemper
Anna and Tom Lawson
Terrell and John McDermid
Anne and Jim McVey
Carl Pattison & Rachel Johnson
Kimball Payne
Keith Schnebly
Dick and Kathy Williford

HEADWATERS CIRCLE

Deborah Bush
George Calvert
Linda and Matt Cauley
Dale and Betty Crutchfield
John Fowler
Billy and Susan Frank
Polly and Dave Hawkes
Allan and Rebecca Howerton
Lois and Gary Johnson
Marc Koslen
Jane Lindsay and John Beach
Elizabeth and Lloyd Lipscomb
Paul and Valerie Marini
William and Hope McNown
Lang Murray
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph M. Seiffert
George Snead and Juanita Savage
Sarah Solomon
Elizabeth Van Lear
Marla and Mike Whiteside

RIVER GUARDIAN

Phil Agee
Doug and Debbie Albrecht
Norman Blanchard
Candice Dupoise and Lee Baumgarten
Remi Gratton, III
J. Lesslie Hall, III
Tom Hardbarger
Mary and Ryan Hodges
Douglas and Susan Holland
Roger Holnback
K. Douglas Hopkins and David Somers
Mary Johnson
Steve and Ann Larrick
Will Loving and Laura Loe
Will and Bonnie Mahone
Cleve and Barbara McGehee
Rick and Suzanne Miller
Alice D. Murray
Dee and Rick Pietsch
Peter and Iris Pistell
Potomac Hunt Club
Jeff and Harriett Price
Carolyn Ratcliffe
David and Marjorie Ray
Keven and Cindy Rice
Tommy and Kelly Slusser
Steve and Kelly Van Lear
Debby and Tom Voldrich
Gorham B. Wood

STREAMSIDE LEVEL

Calvin Armbrecht
Maureen Gray
W.S. Heindl
Donna and Graham Hobbs
Kemp Houck
Paul and Kim Lancaster
Betsy Lasley
Jim Lavier
Jeff McDanald
CJ and Bonnie Nicely
John R. Redick
Kermit Shriver

Ida Simmons
W.E. Stinespring
Turkey Tracks, LLC
David and Roxann Wilson

INDIVIDUAL LEVEL

Andrew Armstrong
Carter Asboth
Kathy and Gary Childs
David Cowden
Erin Cowden
Kelly Cowden
Celeste DesOrmeaux
Matt Hill
Tyler Merson
Ann May Shelton

IN MEMORY OF:

Frankie Apistolas
by Mary Manly
Alexander Simon

George Beckwith, Jr.
by Dr. Harry Hampton Ballard
Jim Blackerby
Victoria Blackford
Walter Comerford
Donny, Lori and Josh Crowe
John and Karen Deaton
Donald Edward Deichmann
Jason Didden
Michelle Duval
Lisa Everett
Dr. Bryan Freeman
Bob and Elizabeth Griffin
Alvara Garcia Guerra
John Gunter
Jay Harris
Paul and Gina Harris
Tommy Hatcher
Polly Hawkes
Mary Hersher and Bill Seman
Penny and Lyman Horne
David M. Hubbard
Karen Huss
Stafford Johnson
Keith Kolischak
Bohdan Kot
Dean LaMont
Rebecca Liberty
Bob and Carol Mattocks
Ben McLawhorn
Patricia A. Minschew
Christopher Moore
Trish Murphey
Sam Myers
Beth Nelson
Mr. Pete Stanley Papajohn
Michael Sanders
Wilbur M. Vitols
Nancy Wheeler

Lucius Bracey
by Matt and Linda Cauley

Sarah and Dewey Davis
by Bettine Carroll

Rachel Johnson
by Lynne Griffith

Otis Mead
by Bruce Levitt
Lynne Preston
Eddie and Sheri Walters

Frank West Morrison
by Frank and Gail Morrison

William Perry
by Brenda Kursawe

James Revercomb
by Margaret and Robert Balsey
Linda and Matt Cauley
Robyn Hakanson
Marilee H. Weikel

James Revercomb
by Margaret and Robert Balsey
Matt and Linda Cauley
Robyn Hakanson
Marilee H. Weikel

IN HONOR OF

Julie Gaines Walton's Birthday
by Anne Doll

Donation Levels

Endowment Contributor — $3000 or more, designated specifically for the Quasi-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 (12 & Under) — $12
Memorial Contributions — Any amount in memory of a loved one.
"In Honor of" Contributions — Any amount in honor of a living person.

In Memory of Rachel Johnson

CRPA Member Rachel B. Johnson (Rachel Brundred Ravey Johnson Reed-Pattison) died peacefully at home with her family on October 6, 2025 at Stillhouse Hollow. She was 88 years old but had the spirit, laugh and appearance of one much younger. Rachel was married to the Rev. Carl F. Pattison for 39 years. She and Carl were frequent participants at the Walton Tract Clean-Up events.

Rachel participating in the Walton Tract Clean-Up October 26, 2024.

ONLINE AUCTION RESULTS

Our sixth annual online auction was a huge success! Bidding began on November 3rd and wrapped up on November 14th. We had a total of 54 auction items, our most ever! We raised $3663 which goes into our educational/scholarship fund. Many thanks to all of the auction donors who contributed their items so that we can provide conservation education to students of all ages.

Post Office Box 215
Millboro, VA 24460
director@cowpastureriver.org

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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 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 _____

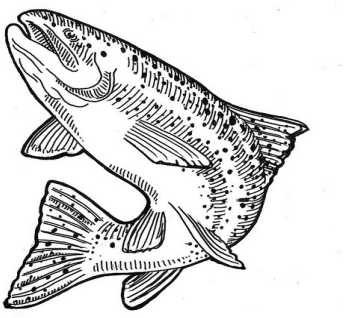
NAME(S): _____

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 river monitor.

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