



**Spring 2009
calendar**

Sat., May 16 - Tide Ride,
Aylett to Walkerton

Thurs., May 21 - Board
Meeting at Kitty Cox's
house, 6:30 PM

Sat., June 6 - 19th Annual
Mattaponi & Pamunkey
Rivers Stewardship Day,
including weekend campout
at Sandy Point

Sat., June 13 - Locust

Grove Wine & Art Festival

July TBA - York Watershed
Council Paddle, Zoar to
Aylett

**River
Stewardship
Day**

June 6, 2009

Call Kitty 769-3939 or
Mary 769-4917
to register.



Interested in camping
at Sandy Point after
Stewardship Day?
Contact Chris Henicheck at
(804) 399-5347.

Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers Association newsletter

It's time to get your boat back on the river - Ride the Tide

With the weather getting warmer, it's time to get out on the river. Join old friends and new on the **Ride the Tide paddle on Sat., May 16.** A registration fee of \$15 will get you light breakfast fare, shuttle service and lunch. Visit MPRA's new wiki site (or www.mpra.org and click on the link) for the registration and waiver forms. Fill out the form, sign the waiver and mail them back to MPRA, P.O. Box 157, Walkerton, VA 23177 with a check.



Paddlers should unload their boats at Aylett beginning at 8 AM, take vehicles to Walkerton, and catch the Kiddie Korner shuttle bus back to Aylett between 8:30 and 9 AM. St. David's Episcopal Church next to the Aylett Boat Landing will be serving light breakfast fare and coffee and has offered the use of their restroom before we depart.

We plan to launch between 9 and 10 AM. The tide will be going our way, so it should be a leisurely trip to Walkerton where lunch will be served between noon and 1:30 PM. Audrey Mitchell and Lindsay Davis have been working hard to coordinate the logistics. Send your check and reservation form back by May 1 so we'll know how many people to prepare for.

If you need a canoe or kayak, contact Garrie Rouse at Mattaponi Canoe and Kayak and he'll hook you up with a boat at the launch site. Email Garrie at www.mattaponi.com. or call (804)512-2063. Information about what you need to bring, maps, and links to websites are all on the wiki at <http://mpra.wikispaces.com>.



19th Annual River Stewardship Day set for June 6

Mark your calendar and sign up to volunteer for the annual Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers Stewardship Day on June 6. Call Kitty Cox at 769-3939 or Mary Walton at 769-4917, mwalton@kingwilliamcounty.us to tell them you want to help. Meet at 8:30 AM on Saturday morning, June 6, for your assignment and trash bags at one of the three start locations: Campbell's Cottage near King William Courthouse (follow the signs on Rt. 360), Rainbow Acres Campground (off of The Trail, Rt. 14 in King and Queen Co.) or at the West Point Boat Landing. We need boats, especially at West Point.

The clean up will take place rain or shine. Other stewardship activities and educational opportunities at Sandy Point will be happening during the day. A picnic for volunteers will begin at Dick Campbell's cottage at 2 PM. Door prizes will be given, as well as the ever-popular Ice Cream Connection cart.

For the past two years, members and scouts have camped at Sandy Point State Forest on Friday and Saturday before and after the event. Campers have also encountered a "man from the past" on the banks of the river. If you're interested in camping, you must furnish your own gear, but we'll provide the marshmallows! Contact President Chris Henicheck if you'd like to camp.



It's for the birds - prothonotary warblers

In March, MPRA volunteers Chris Henicheck, Brian Hepper, Phil Rose, John Jensen and Chip Underwood constructed bird boxes for the prothonotary warbler project. That brings the total to more than 60 boxes to reach MPRA's goal of 100 bird boxes by January 2010.

Former MPRA president Brad Davis began the project and has been placing boxes along the Mattaponi and Pamunkey shorelines and monitoring them.

"I've found evidence of nesting in the boxes for the past several years. I pinpoint the location of the boxes using GPS coordinates and plan to record what we find each year," said Brad. "We plan to observe and record the birds' arrival dates, egg dates, survival rates and habitat surveys." He hopes to have volunteers participate in local bird banding efforts in the future. With help from his son Ethan and other volunteers, Brad recently placed 30 boxes at sites owned by land owners, at Sandy Point State Forest, the Pamunkey Indian Reservation and at other water trail kiosk sites.

The prothonotary warbler is a beautiful yellow and blue migratory songbird that visits each year and nests along river banks in the spring and early summer.



Volunteers needed for June 13 Locust Grove Wine and Art Festival



MPRA will be hosting the River/Kid's Tent at the Wine and Art Festival at Locust Grove again this year. Remax Realty is donating scratch art fish and turtles for the kids to make and Ms. Dawn and King William from the Pamunkey Regional Library will have storytime by the river during the day. If you'd like to volunteer a few hours to help with the kids crafts, sell river maps, or give out info and talk to folks about the rivers, let Dawn Shank know. Email: dshank51@msn.com.

Chip Underwood (right) and Chris Henicheck helped plant trees at the new state fair site, Meadow Farm Event Park. Everyone else was glad Chris brought his auger! MPRA will install a new kiosk along the river at the park.



Thanks for the support

We got checks from old and new members at the annual meeting and after the last newsletter. Thanks. We send a hard copy to our mailing list once a year; other quarterly newsletters are electronic. If you haven't paid for 2009, dues are \$15/yr. for the family. If you're not getting email updates, send Dawn your email and ask her to put you on the list: dshank51@msn.com.

Invite a friend to join. MPRA - \$15 year for individual or family, \$50 Business/organization. Include your name, address, phone, email address and send to: **MPRA, P.O. Box 157, Walkerton, VA 23177**



The Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers Association is an all-volunteer 501(c)3 charitable non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and stewardship of the resources of the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers.

MPRA website: www.mpra.org