



Fall 2006

Sat., Oct. 28, 5 PM - Rent Party, Brad and Lindsay Davis' house on Garnett's Mill Lane, Walkerton. BYOB & food to share. Bring your canoe or kayak if you'd like to go paddling. Directions are on the website, www.mpra.org. That same evening is a K&Q Ruritan Fund Raiser Dinner for the Alliance to Save the Mattaponi. Order take out from Dori Chappell and bring it to the rent party! (Sorry we didn't realize it was the same night!)

MPRA hosts Teacher workshop



Canoeing down the Mattaponi on a Friday afternoon was a great way to introduce educators to a "meaningful watershed experience." With a grant funded by the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund, Dawn Shank and Audrey Mitchell spent a day working with educators on developing learning opportunities based on the rivers. Creating lessons using the upper York River Watershed will enable teachers to help students understand issues concerning our rivers and the importance of all community members to

(cont., p. 2)

Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers Association newsletter



Kiosks provide information along the water trail.

American Canoe Association picks MPRA water trail for Top Twelve list

The American Canoe Association (ACA) recently recognized the Lower Mattaponi and Pamunkey Canoe Trail as one of its twelve water trails from around the U.S. as "ACA-Recommended Water Trails" for 2006.

ACA-Recommended Water Trails meet a set of basic criteria and stand out as particular good destinations for paddlers. To be eligible, a trail must meet the following requirements:

- The trail must be a contiguous or semi-contiguous waterway or series of waterways that is open to recreational use by paddlers;
- The trail must have public access points for paddlers;
- The trail must be covered by a map, guide, signage or a website that is of reasonable quality and detail and available to the public.
- Published or printed materials for the trail (e.g. guidebook, map, signs, website) must communicate low-impact ethics to trail users; and
- The trail must be supported and/or managed by one or more organizations.

The American Canoe Association is the nation's largest and oldest paddlesports membership association. First formed in 1880, the ACA provides paddlesport education, supports paddlesports recreation programs, and advocates for sound stewardship of our nation's waterways. The ACA's website features the most comprehensive on-line database of water trails on the web, available at <http://www.americancanoe.org/recreation/watertrails.lasso>.



MPRA sponsors another successful River Stewardship Day thanks to volunteers

Thanks to everyone who came out in boats, canoes and on foot to help with the 17th annual MPRA River Stewardship Day. Approximately 150 people turned out Saturday, Sept. 16. Volunteers moved three tons of trash and debris from the rivers and shorelines, including tires, scrap metal, an air conditioner, damaged docks and boats from tropical storm Ernesto and remnants of the old Starship that sunk during Hurricane Isabel! Other volunteers landscaped around the water trail kiosks at Zoar State Forest, Lester Manor and the West Point boat landings.

After the cleanup, volunteers enjoyed a picnic at Dick Campbell's cottage. Thanks to food chairs Betty and Phil Rose, Mimi Gray and other board members for preparing and serving food and to Lisa Powell of Art Explosion who headed up the kids' activities. Even though it's her job as KW county litter coordinator, MPRA also wants to thank Kitty Cox for all the hard work and dedication to the event for so many years.

The MPRA board has decided to move the cleanup to June next year. We hope this will help us avoid hurricanes and get schools more involved. When you get your new 2007 calendar, mark Saturday, June 2 for the next River Stewardship Day.

Everyone went home with a door prize this year, provided by 48 sponsors. A special thanks to the Campbell family for hosting the picnic on the banks of the

(continued on p.2)



Next year, Stewardship Day coordinator Kitty Cox will get to celebrate her anniversary properly. We're moving the event to June 2.

(River Stewardship Day, continued)

Mattaponi and to all our wonderful sponsors: KW/West Point Litter Prevention Program, 360 Hardware, BFI-King & Queen Landfill, Bennett Mineral Company, Boyer's Inc., Central Virginia Outdoor Power Equipment, Citizens & Farmers Bank, Cooper's Marine, Inc., Dominion Resources Services, Inc., Double U Water & Woods, Eastern Virginia Bank, Endfield Nursery, Endfield Sod, Inc., Essex Concrete/Aylett Sand & Gravel, Inc., FasMart, Forest Resources Management, Inc., Hanover Electric, LLC, Henley Hardware, Ice Cream Connection, King & Queen County, King William Pharmacy/RadioShack, Mattaponi Canoe & Kayak, Medlin Motor Co., Inc., NewMarket Services Corp., Pamunkey Indian Museum, Rainbow Acres Campground, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, Ronnie Helmick Well & Pump Service, Rozell's Marine Service & Boat Sales, Scott's Store, Smurfit-Stone, Southern States-King William Branch, The Country Courier, The Monday Club, The Nature Conservancy-Virginia Chapter, Thomas & Green Garden Center; Three Rivers Soil & Water Conservation District, Tidewater Review, Town of West Point, Twin Rivers Realty, Inc., Union Bank & Trust Co., USW Local 8-467, Virginia Peninsulas Public Waste Authority, W.F. Parker Oil Co., Walton Construction Co., West Point Antiques and Whitmore Chevrolet.

Chris' Corner - Stewardship Day Thanks to all the sponsors & MPRA members. "Great job" to all the board members for their hard work. I'd like to thank the Campbell family for their generosity and a special thanks to Kitty Cox for her endless drive. And my personal thanks to a wonderful personality of MPRA, Dawn Shank.

My best to everyone,

Chris Henicheck, MPRA President

If you haven't paid your 2006-07 dues, they're now due. Invite a friend to join. MPRA - \$15 year for individual or family, \$50 Business/organization **Make checks to: Mattaponi & Pamunkey Rivers Assoc. and mail to: MPRA, Box 157, Walkerton, VA 23177.**



MPRA
P.O. Box 157
Walkerton, VA 23177

(Teacher workshop, cont.)

be ecologically aware in protecting them.

Teachers from King William, West Point, New Kent and King & Queen school divisions participated in the Sept. 29 workshop. In the morning, staff from the Virginia Departments of Conservation and Recreation, Forestry, Cooperative Extension, and Three Rivers SWCD shared educational resources with teachers and participated in watershed lessons.

After lunch, the group paddled with Garrie Rouse of Mattaponi Canoe & Kayak, learning about tidal river ecology. Teachers used scientific probes and monitoring devices to access water quality along the way. Upon returning to the Aylett landing, participants met for dinner and discussed future learning opportunities to offer students in the region. MPRA will continue to work with teachers and local schools through the Schools of Shad project.



May Sligh of the Virginia DCR, discusses with Sara Stedman of Lawson-Marriott and Sal Vitale of New Kent the development a riverside community they must plan in a role playing activity.



Garrie Rouse led teachers on an afternoon paddle on the Mattaponi.

**We need people to pick up trash at boat landings periodically.
Can you help? Call Kitty @ 769-4917**