



Fall 2010 calendar

Check out www.mpra.org
for upcoming events



Martin wins boat raffle

Dean Martin's name was drawn out of the bin during the picnic at River Stewardship Day. His antique sailing canoe was donated by Twin Rivers Realty, raising close to \$1,000 for MPRA.



Willie Balderson as Mr. Todkill tells young scholars about his adventures with Captain John Smith during 2010 River Day. (photo by Sally Mills, VA Wildlife Magazine)

Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers Association newsletter

Get more involved . . . serve on a committee.

The MPRA board hopes to get more members directly involved by creating a new committee structure. Like many organizations, MPRA is blessed with a core group of dedicated volunteers who work on its projects. For the past year, board members have been discussing an approach to get more members involved and make board meetings more efficient. They created six committees that will meet independently of the board, work out project plans and report to the board. Each committee will be chaired by a current board member. Below is a description of each committee, the chair, goals and current activities that would fall under the committee.

If you are interested in working on a specific project or committee, contact the committee chair or email a message to staff@mpr.org and we'll see that it's passed on to the appropriate person.

Water Trail/Sandy Point - Chris Henicheck, chair

Goal: Maintain and improve the water trail kiosk sites as part of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Water Trail and Captain John Smith Water Trail.

Activities: Repair, maintain and clean up kiosk sites on a regular basis; recruit and coordinate volunteers to adopt kiosk sites; work with Virginia Dept. of Forestry to maintain and improve Sandy Point State Forest and coordinate group camping there; install new kiosks (Meadow Farm Event Park state fair site).



Hamilton-Holmes sixth-graders make a river connection at Sandy Point State Forest on River Day.

River Stewardship Day - Kitty Cox, chair

Goal: Clean up litter and debris from the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers and increase awareness of our unique river resources so that participants will be motivated to take an active role in river stewardship in our communities.

Activities: Coordinate the annual River Stewardship Day (set for June 4, 2011) and work with KW Litter Control to clean up public boat landings on a periodic basis during the year.

Scenic River Designation/River Issues - Eugene Rivara, chair

Goal: Act to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers. Bring specific legislation about river issues to the attention of MPRA members.

Activities: Work with other organizations and local governments in the York

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watershed to get a section of one or both rivers designated a Scenic Waterway. Keep members informed of river issues through speakers, workshops and the MPRA newsletter.

Schools of Shad/Education - Dawn Shank and Audrey Mitchell, co-chairs *Goal:* To educate students and citizens about the natural and cultural heritage of the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers through hands-on environmental education outreach, such as river days and paddling trips.

Activities: Coordinate a River Day for middle school students, partner with 4-H to hold a summer river camp, coordinate at least one educational paddle.



The Bird/Wildlife committee will continue to build, install and inventory bird boxes, like this wood duck box at Sandy Point State Forest.

Bird/Wildlife Projects - Brad Davis, chair *Goal:* Inventory and protect wildlife species and habitats in the watershed.

Activities: Construct and place prothonotary warbler and duck boxes, recruit riparian land owners to allow boxes on their property, inventory boxes, track and report to others conducting research, provide environmental education about wildlife and habitats through publications, website, workshops and public outreach.

Outreach/Communications - Bob Gray, webmaster, Dawn Shank, newsletter, Ryan Evers, Facebook *Goal:* Keep members informed of activities and issues.

Activities: Update websites. Produce quarterly newsletters for members (three electronic, one paper mailed to membership prior to the annual meeting). Produce press releases about MPRA activities. Provide speakers to organizations upon request.

Since the last newsletter we . . .

- ◆ Led a wetlands education station at EE Day for 6th graders in Hanover and Caroline Counties at Meadow Farm Event Park;
- ◆ Worked on a new kiosk site at Meadow Farm Event Park, site of the State Fair of Virginia



- ◆ Held Spring Paddle from Zoar to Aylett
- ◆ Held 20th Annual River Stewardship Day



A rainbarrel workshop was one of the stewardship activities during River Stewardship Day.

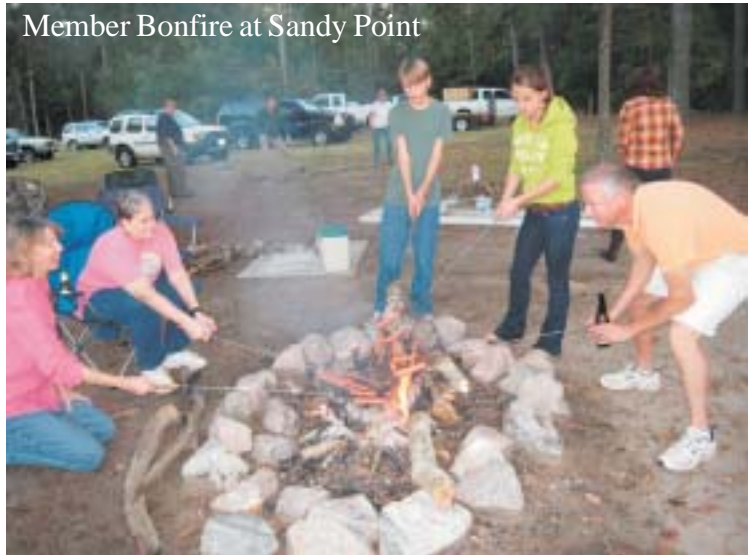
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(Since the last newsletter, continued.)

- ◆ Worked the River/Kid's Tent at Locust Grove Wine and Art Festival
- ◆ Helped build trails and maintain Sandy Point State Forest, and coordinated group camping for Boy Scout troops
- ◆ Found new locations for, installed, mapped, cleaned and inventoried prothonotary warbler boxes and duck boxes
- ◆ Coordinated River Day for more than 180 Hamilton-Holmes Middle School 6th-graders
- ◆ Held a members' bonfire at Sandy Point State Forest that included a spooky hayride tour



Garrie Rouse helps students take soil samples to determine wetland delineation at River Day (right). Students pick green shrimp out of seine net. (left)



Thanks Chris

Chris Henicheck has been an outstanding president for MPRA for the past few years. Under his leadership, we have seen the water trail kiosk sites improve and grow in number. Chris has increased partnerships with scout troops, the Virginia Dept. of Forestry, as well as the National Park Service. The improvements at Sandy Point State Forest are a visible sign of his dedication and hard work. He loves the place and it shows. He is a man of action and energy. Chris' time as president is over at our annual meeting this winter and we will have to elect a new president. Chris has consented to be chair of the Water Trail Committee, so he can still mow grass at Sandy Point.

If you'd like to nominate someone for the 2011 board or run as an officer or volunteer yourself, email [staff @mpra.org](mailto:staff@mpra.org).



MPRA President Chris Henicheck with his daughter Lily at the Locust Grove Wine and Art Festival.