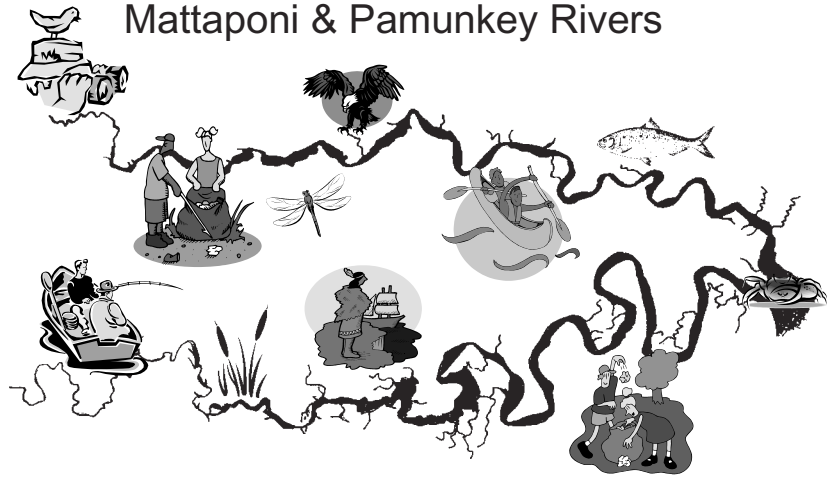




## Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers Association newsletter 20 Years of Stewardship

### Mattaponi & Pamunkey Rivers



### Spring 2010 calendar

May 8 - Spring Paddle,  
Zoar to Aylett

June 5 - 20th Annual  
River Stewardship Day

June 12 - Locust Grove  
Art & Wine Festival

June 24-29- River Camp

July TBA - River Girls  
Paddle

Aug. TBA - Wacky  
Walkerton Waft Wace

### A Special Thanks

for your decades of support of River Stewardship Day & MPRA to Kitty Cox, The Nature Conservancy, Debbie and Mark Davis, Dick Campbell & family, and Rosemary Zellner/ Rainbow Acres.



### Boat Raffle

Don't forget to take some chances on the beautiful, antique sailing canoe. It's only \$1 donation per chance or 6 for \$5. The drawing will be during the picnic at River Stewardship Day.

Kitty Cox, MPRA River Stewardship Day chair, has been organizing the river cleanup for twenty years! On Saturday, June 5, volunteers will pick up trash from the rivers, shorelines, bridges and boat landings. River Stewardship Day began in 1991 with about 40 volunteers. By the third year there were 100 volunteers. The event has grown through the years to as many as 250 participants. People bring boats, canoes or join walking crews working in the morning and are rewarded with lunch, ice cream and door prizes at the afternoon picnic at Dick Campbell's cottage on the Mattaponi River.

Ten years ago, the event was expanded to include other stewardship activities. Volunteers have built and installed wood duck and prothonotary warbler boxes, York River Water Trail kiosks, planted native plants around kiosk areas and eroding banks, and made improvements to facilities at Sandy Point State Forest. This year, there will be a rainbarrel workshop, an inventory of bird boxes, work on trails at Sandy Point, an educational canoe trip, water monitoring and displays on exhibit. We'll also hold the drawing for the vintage wooden, sailing canoe donated by Twin Rivers Realty. For those interested in camping at Sandy Point after the event, contact Chris Henicheck at 804-399-5347.

If you'd like to volunteer (especially if you have a boat), contact Kitty Cox at (804) 769-3939 to preregister ahead of time. This will help Kitty organize crews and locations and give us a head count for the picnic.

Thanks to our generous sponsors who make this event and our educational programs possible the rest of the year. This year's sponsors include: 360 Hardware, 360 View, Aylett Tire, Inc., Bennett Mineral Company, Dominion Resources Services, Inc., Endfield Nursery, Inc., Essex Bank, Essex Concrete Corp./Aylett Sand & Gravel, Inc., EVB, F & M Marine, Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula, Henicheck Enterprises, Ice Cream Connection, King and Queen County, King William County, King William Pharmacy/Radio Shack, King William/West Point Litter Prevention Program, Mattaponi Canoe & Kayak, NewMarket Corp., Pamunkey Indian Museum, Rainbow Acres Campground, Rappahannock Electric Coop., ReMax Commonwealth Realty, Rozell's Marine Service & Boat Sales, Scott's Store, Southern States - King William, The Country Courier, The Supply Room

(continued, p. 2)

## River Camp for kids to be held June 26 - 29

This summer MPRA is teaming with Virginia Cooperative Extension 4-H to hold a 3-day River Camp at Sandy Point State Forest. The camp will be held Thurs., June 24 through Sat., June 26 from 9 AM until 2 PM each day. Students from King William and King and Queen counties who are rising 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders are eligible. There is a limit of 32 students, on a first contact/paid, first taken basis. The cost is \$30 for the three-day camp. Contact Catherine Short, 4-H Extension agent at 769-4957 for more information and to register.

MPRA has been working directly with teachers and schools in King William and King and Queen counties for years writing grants with teachers for on-the-water teacher workshops, fishing days and outdoor field trips for middle school students.

“Unless people have a connection to the river, they won’t care what happens to it. That’s why we feel it’s important to give people an opportunity to experience the river first hand,” says Dawn Shank, an MPRA volunteer who helps organize outdoor environmental education activities on the rivers. For the past three years, MPRA has used Sandy Point State Forest in King William County as an outdoor classroom for teaching students about the rivers and what lives in and around them.

“Students tell our volunteers that MPRA’s River Day is the best field trip they’ve ever been on,” said Audrey Mitchell, another River Camp planner. “We’re excited to expand River Days to a three-day camp where middle-schoolers can spend more time doing activities we do during our field days.” Some of the activities include fishing, seining, hiking the trails at Sandy Point, canoeing and interacting with Captain John Smith historical interpreter, Willie Balderson.

“When I was growing up, we stayed outdoors all day, mostly unsupervised, playing in the woods and creeks, said Shank. “Things are very different now. The freedom to explore nature has been replaced by fear and video games. The current *No Child Left Inside* movement has shed light on what a lot of children are missing these days — playing outdoors. We’re trying to help adults and students have a safe opportunity to explore and learn about nature.”

Want to help or find out more? Contact Dawn, Audrey or Catherine.

*(River Stewardship Day, continued)*

Companies, Tidewater Review, Tucker’s Recreation Park & Marine, USW Local 8-467, Walton Construction Company, West Point Pharmacy, Inc. and the York River & Small Coastal Basin Roundtable.

## Last call for Tide Ride on May 8

MPRA also provides opportunities for adults and families to get on the water and explore the rivers. On May 8, MPRA is leading a paddling trip from Zoar State Forest to the Aylett boat landing. The



cost is \$15, which includes a shuttle and picnic lunch at the end of the trip. For more information, visit [www.mpra.org](http://www.mpra.org) and click on the link for the MPRA wiki site for registration and waiver forms. If you would like to rent one for the trip, contact Garrie Rouse at Mattaponi Canoe and Kayak at (804) 512-2063.

## Locust Grove Wine & Arts Festival

If you are interested in volunteering at the Kid’s River Tent at the Wine and Art Festival, contact Dawn Shank, [dshank51@msn.com](mailto:dshank51@msn.com). A few hours under the tent chatting with folks or helping kids with activities gets you free admission to the festival. If you’re available to help put up tents or other pre-festival preparation, we could use your help, too in exchange for free admission.

Enjoy a day of food, music, art, wine and horse & carriage rides  
on the bluffs of the Mattaponi River in Walkerton, VA

The Wine & Arts Festival  
at Locust Grove  
June 12, 2010  
10 am - 5 pm

TICKETS  
Wine tasters - \$10 in advance, \$15 at door  
\$5 non-tasters - 12 and under - free

For reservations & information  
[www.locustgrove1665.com](http://www.locustgrove1665.com)  
or call 804-769-8201

A detailed black and white illustration of a bunch of grapes hanging from a vine with several large, detailed leaves.