



**Spring 2011
calendar**

*Check out www.mpra.org
for upcoming events*

- May 7- Spring Paddle
- June 4 - 21st Annual River Stewardship Day
- June 7 - Board meeting
- July 5 - Board meeting
- Aug. 15, 16 & 17 River Camp, Sandy Point State Forest
- TBA - The Wacky Walkerton Waft Wace (raft race) - start planning your entry now!



Thanks to our River Stewardship Day sponsors

for your generous contributions:

- Bennett Mineral
- Essex Concrete
- King & Queen County
- The NewMarket Foundation
- Rappahannock Electric Cooperative
- Robert Walton Construction
- Town of West Point
- Tucker's Marine

Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers Association newsletter



Join us for the third annual Spring Paddle May 7 - Headwaters of the Pamunkey River

MPRA's Spring Paddle/Ride the Tide outing will be May 7 from 9 AM until approximately 3:30 PM. The seven mile paddle will begin on the North Anna and meet the confluence with the South Anna, the point where the Pamunkey River begins. After joining the North Anna, we'll travel another three miles to our lunch spot, then another three miles to the DGIF boat launch at the Rt. 301 bridge.

Garrie Rouse says, "This is a remote, relately tranquil and scenic trip with opportunities for swimming and wildlife viewing. Fossil laden clay banks and a stand of Eastern Hemlocks are additional features encountered during the trip."

Call Audrey Mitchell **immediately** to sign up if you haven't already. The trip is \$15 which includes lunch and shuttle service. To download forms and waiver which are required, visit <http://mpra.wikispaces.com>.

21st Annual River Stewardship Day - June 4

It's that time of year again. . . time to clean up the rivers. Kitty Cox, chair, is looking for people with motor boats, canoes and kayaks, and people willing to go on foot to pick up trash and debris along the river banks and at boat landings. Meet at one of the three starting locations, Dick Campbell's cottage on the Mattaponi in King William, Rainbow Acres in King and Queen or the West Point boat landing to get your assignment and trash bags.

If you know of an area that needs special attention, please contact Kitty at 769-3939 so she can make sure we send a crew to those areas. Also call Kitty to register so she can organize crews and plan for lunch.

Following the clean up there will be a picnic at Dick Campbell's pavilion for volunteers, along with door prizes and awards for the most unusual trash recovered. This is the

21st year MPRA has sponsored the event, which is part of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Clean the Bay Day. We thank all our generous sponsors and volunteers for making it possible.



River Camps being planned for August

MPRA is partnering with Virginia Cooperative Extension 4-H to offer three days of outdoor environmental education for children eight years and older. The day camps are scheduled for Aug. 15, 16 & 17 at Sandy Point State Forest on the Mattaponi River in King William County.

Students may attend for any of the three days or all three. Each day will have a different theme. Fish Camp will focus on fishing and the river and pond habitats. Critter Camp will focus on wildlife, and River Ecology Camp will examine many different aspects of riparian and river ecology. Students will seine each day and should be prepared to get wet and muddy.

Current plans are to have campers meet at Hamilton-Holmes each morning by 8:45 AM and be transported by school bus to Sandy Point, returning to the school by 2:30 PM each afternoon. A registration fee of \$10 per day or all three days for \$25 will be charged. Students will bring their lunch. Water and some snacks will be provided. For more information or to register, contact Catherine Short at the Extension Office, 769-4955 or email her at clshort@vt.edu.



Campers will seine each day of River Camp this summer. Sign your kids up now or volunteer to help.

Scenic River Designation

MPRA hosted an informational meeting about Virginia's Scenic River Program on March 15 at King William Courthouse. Lynn Crump from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation did an excellent job explaining the program and answering the audience's questions. The meeting was attended by river property owners, several members of the KW Board of Supervisors, MPRA members, members of the local King William Tea Party and citizens who have concerns about the program.

Scenic River designation is an official recognition of the natural, scenic, historic and recreational values of some of Virginia's most valuable riverine resources. It gives riparian landowners and other local citizens a stronger voice in any government action or decisions that have a potential impact. It does *not* give the state control over land use, carries no land use controls, and does not give the public any right to use privately owned land.

Scenic River designation must be requested by a county Board of Supervisors to begin the process. MPRA would like to see one or more segments of the Mattaponi identified. Currently there is no scenic river designation in the entire York River watershed.

MPRA's next step in the process is explore what segments of the river would best qualify for the designation and to gain support of local river property owners, local citizens and members of the board of supervisors in both King William and King and Queen counties.

How you feel? Chime in on our Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers Association Facebook page or at www.mpra.org.



MPRA student board member Kat Rouse and Monica Rivara chat with speaker Lynn Crump before the meeting.