



Summer 2007

Aug. 4 - Walkerton Day including the **Wacky Walkerton Waft Wace** beginning at 2PM

Sept. 29-30- Pamunkey River Sojourn



MPRA member Ashley Townsend Simons and Ryan, a Chesapeake Bay Governor's School student, decorate a water trail kiosk end cap during River Stewardship Day.

Get yourself a crew and enter now!

Wacky Walkerton



Waft Wace

2007

Part of Walkerton Day, Aug. 4
Check www.mpra.org for details.

Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers Association newsletter

It was a busy June for MPRA

June was a busy month for MPRA. The month started with our annual **River Stewardship Day** on Saturday, June 2. Stewardship Day coordinator Kitty Cox and MPRA board members did a spectacular job again this year pulling together sponsors, food and 151 volunteers to clean up the rivers. We removed approximately 12,000 pounds of trash and debris from the rivers and shorelines and cleaned all the boat landings from Rt. 360 to West Point. This year, we also included an educational field trip for the Hamilton-Holmes Middle School River Rats and Ecology Clubs led by Garrie Rouse of Mattaponi Canoe and Kayak.

By moving the event from September to June, we were able to be part of the larger "Clean the Bay Day" sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Everyone went home with a door prize thanks to all our generous sponsors and we enjoyed BBQ, fried chicken, watermelon and ice cream. A special thanks to Betty Rose, Mimi Gray and the food committee, to Lisa Powers with Art Explosion, and Catherine Short of VA Cooperative Extension who manned activities from the Water Wizard Van.

A big thank you to the following sponsors: King William/West Point Litter Prevention Program, 360 Hardware, Aylett Tire, Inc., Bank of Essex, BFI – King & Queen Landfill, Citizens and Farmers Bank, Dominion Resources Services, Inc., EVB, Endfield Nursery, Inc., F & M Marine, GeoEnvironmental Services, Inc., Gottwald Foundation, Henley Hardware, Ice Cream Connection, King & Queen County, King William Pharmacy/ @RadioShack (Dealer), Mattaponi Canoe & Kayak, NAPA of King William, NewMarket Services Corporation, PAPCO, Pamunkey Indian Museum, Rainbow Acres Campground, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, Ronnie Helmick Well & Pump Service, Inc. T/A Charles H., Helmick Well & Pump Service, Rozell's Marine Service & Boat Sales, Scott's Store, Smurfit-Stone, Southern States-King William Branch, The Country Courier, The Nature Conservancy-Va. Chapter, The Supply Room Companies, Thomas & Green Garden Center, Tidewater Review, Tucker's Recreation Park & Marine, Twin Rivers Realty, Inc., Union Bank & Trust Company, USW Local 8-467, W. F. Parker Oil Company, West Point Pharmacy, Inc., Walton Construction Company and Whitmore Chevrolet.

Locust Grove Wine and Arts Festival

On Saturday, June 9, MPRA volunteers were busy again hosting the Kids/ River Tent at the Locust Grove Wine and Arts Festival. This year MPRA was a cosponsor for the event so that people could enjoy walking around the grounds tasting wine, looking at artwork and enjoying music at the historic farm near Walkerton. Catherine Short, Cooperative Extension agent, had the Water Wizard van there for the event. Thanks to Cecky Ropelewski and Jerry Walker for partnering with MPRA helping to raise funds for MPRA and other local community organizations. A special thanks to Phil Rose for his tent and to Chris Henicheck, the Davis family, Audrey Mitchell and all other the folks that volunteered. We look forward to it again next year!

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It was a busy June for MPRA, continued Fishing Day

The week after the Wine and Art Festival, MPRA volunteers were on the river again baiting hooks and eating hot dogs with the HHMS River Rats. MPRA members and River Rat sponsors Audrey Mitchell and Lindsay Davis sprung the students from school and took them to the Walkerton Bridge for what looks to be an annual event. Rod Tatum, John and Betty Jensen shared their expertise with the budding anglers.

"We didn't catch much," said Audrey, "but the kids had a blast catching minnows in the nets and exploring the marsh. It was a beautiful day to be out of school and on the river. We'll probably have 100 kids sign up for River Rats next year!"

Christ Church School Mattaponi Migration

We're not done with June yet! June 18 through 22, MPRA helped with a river adventure camp group from Christ Church School. MPRA volunteers had worked months before with teacher Will Smiley to chart a route and set up campsites on the Mattaponi. The group, made up of teens from Switzerland, Kansas, Virginia, Texas, Los Angeles, CA and Washington, DC, started paddling Monday from Zoar State Forest and camped along the way.

On Thursday, the MPRA board members hosted dinner for the group. After dinner, they left the Shank's house for a night paddle across the river to Sandy Point State Forest where they helped erect a new kiosk.

When the students got off the river Thursday afternoon they introduced themselves to Dawn Shank. When Hillary Bowie from Leavenworth, Kansas introduced herself, Dawn realized that she

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was her husband Randy's cousin's daughter!

The new kiosk will contain photos and journal entries the students made on their Mattaponi Migration. Thanks to the Jensens, the Campbells, the Shanks, Rod Tatum, Chris Henicheck, Phil Rose, Bob Gray, Lindsay Davis, Will Smiley and students and the Virginia Department of Forestry for all the help making this such a memorable project.

Get weady for a wacky wace

Walkerton Days, a festival/fund raiser for the Walkerton Community Fire Association has been an annual event for years. This year MPRA decided to get more involved and bring a little more fun to the event on Saturday, August 4 by organizing and sponsoring a raft race.

We're inviting MPRA members, river lovers, civic organizations, scouts and businesses to join in the fun by designing and constructing a non-motorized floating craft and entering the Wacky Walkerton Waft Wace (Use an Elmer Fudd accent when weading pwease.)

The wace will begin at 2PM from the Walkerton boat wamp next to the Walkerton bwidege and go downstweam several hundwed yards before coming back to the landing with the tide. For wules and wegulations, visit www.mpra.org. The entwy fee is \$45 and includes a two Wacky Walkerton Waft Wace T-shirts (additional shirts may be purchased). Awards will be pwesented for seveawal categories incwuding fastest, slowest, wowdiest, and pwettiest. Get some cwazy fwends and enter!



Invite a friend to join. MPRA - \$15 year for individual or family, \$50 Business/organization

Make checks to: Mattaponi & Pamunkey Rivers Assoc. Mail to: MPRA, Box 157, Walkerton, VA 23177.

Include your name, address, phone, email address and special interest in the river.

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

P.O. Box 157

Walkerton, VA 23177



MPRA website: www.mpra.org

MPRA Officers

President: Chris Henicheck

Vice-President: Phil Rose

Sec./Treas/newsletter.: Dawn Shank

Past President: Brad Davis

Website: Bob Gray