



Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers Association newsletter

Winter 2007

Friday, Jan. 26 - 6:30 PM

Annual Meeting at King William Fire and Rescue Squad Building, Aylett

June 2, 2007- River Stewardship Day

Fall 2007 - Pamunkey River Sojourn



MPRA members help with annual bird count

Several MPRA members participated in the Christmas Bird Count. Rod Tatum, Brad Davis and Garrie Rouse were among 28 birders who volunteered. Other MPRA members granted permission for access to their properties to observe.

"Huge numbers of blackbirds were along the Pamunkey River and in the nearby corn fields totalling well over 350,000 birds," reported Fred Atwood. According to Atwood, who helped organize the state-wide count, this was the second best year ever in terms of total species, including 1,700 pintails and 47 bald eagles.



Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Supper planned for January 26

Rustle up your favorite dish and join us for the MPRA Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Supper. The dinner meeting will be held Friday, Jan. 26 beginning at 6:30 PM at the King William Fire and Rescue Squad Building in Aylett.



Along with the great food everyone brings, we'll provide beverages, an overview of our 2006 accomplishments and recognize volunteers who have made this year a big success. Invite your friends and neighbors who love the rivers. We'd like to have some idea of how many people to plan for. If you're coming, email Dawn Shank at dshank51@msn.com or call 769-2968.

Plans for 2007 underway - Mark June 2 on your new calendar

Kitty Cox, River Stewardship Day chair, is already working on plans for this year's event. For many years Stewardship Day has been held in September. We decided to move it to June this year to avoid hurricanes and involve schools more.

"We'd really like to have more boats this year," said Kitty Cox. If you have a boat and would be willing to take a few folks to clean up the rivers, call Kitty at the King William Litter Control Office at 769-4917.

We are also looking for sponsors and door prizes for the event. If you have items to donate, ideas for stewardship activities or know of a business that would like to get involved, let Kitty know.

River Stewardship Day not only helps clean up our waterways, but it gives people who may not have access to the rivers an opportunity to get on the water, see wildlife, learn to appreciate the value of our river resources, and understand what a remarkable place we strive to protect. Mark June 2 on your new calendar and plan to volunteer your time.

Schools of Shad making a splash

MPRA volunteers were in local schools again this fall working with students. Teachers in King William and King and Queen schools who attended the September workshop took advantage of using the Enviroscope watershed model donated to MPRA by the Tidewater RC&D Council.

Dawn Shank made presentations on watersheds and the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers to all
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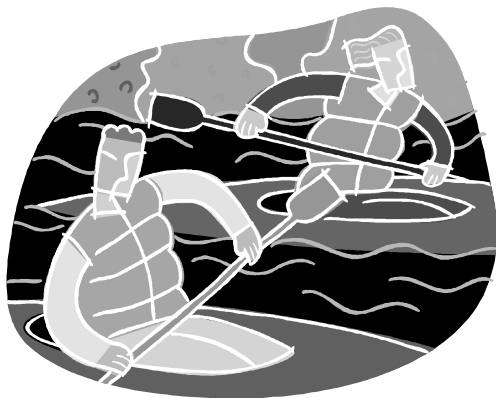
Hamilton-Holmes Middle School River Rats Club members work on designs for water trail kiosks.

(Schools of Shad makes a splash, continued)
the fourth grade classes in West Point. Using the Enviroscape model helps students understand land uses, sources of potential river pollution and methods of preventing it. Pollution can come from many different sources in the watershed. It is everyone's job to prevent it.

The River Rats Club at Hamilton-Holmes Middle School worked on designs for the end caps of water trail kiosks. Students are illustrating fish, animals and plants found in the area. The group also plans to construct bird houses and looks forward to an end of the school year fishing day with MPRA volunteers again this year.

Catherine Short, Virginia Cooperative Extension 4-H agent was recently awarded a grant to work with students setting up shad tanks in classrooms. MPRA will be a partner on the project.

If you'd like to volunteer to bait hooks, cook hotdogs, go into the schools and help set up fish tanks, cut out wooden bird houses for students to construct, talk about the river, pick up trash at a boat landing, repair kiosks or host a rent party to raise money for these projects, call MPRA President Chris Henicheck at (804) 399-5347.



Top 10 2006 MPRA Accomplishments

1. Completed National Park Service Gateways Water Trail grant
2. Held River Stewardship Day
3. Recognized by the National Canoe Association as one of Top Ten Water Trails
4. Held Watershed Connections Teacher Workshop
5. Held Mattaponi River Sojourn
6. Helped sponsor a Fishing Day for the HHMS River Rats Club
7. Paid off "map loan"
8. Members participated in protesting the Newport News Reservoir Project
9. Worked with schools in West Point, King William and King and Queen (a highlight was the Schools of Shad - HHMS "Alien Invasion")
10. Hosted the River/Kid's Tent at Locust Grove Art and Wine Festival



Preliminary plans for Pamunkey paddling

Say that three times and you're on the committee! Last year we had a wonderful group that worked together to create a fun sojourn on the Mattaponi. Everyone that went insisted that we do it again and paddle the Pamunkey this year.

Since we're moving Stewardship Day to June, we're planning the overnight paddle on the Pamunkey for fall. Garrie Rouse is looking at dates and routes that will work with the tides. If you have ideas, would like to be on the sojourn committee or want to go, sign up at the annual meeting or let a board member know. More information will follow in future newsletters.

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

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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