



Winter 2009 calendar

Friday, Feb. 20 - MPRA Annual Meeting & Pot-luck Dinner, KW Fire and Rescue, Aylett. Teta Kain, speaker. Social at 6, program at 7

Sunday, March 29 - Kiosk Clean Up/Spruce Up

Sat., May 16 - Canoe Trip, Aylett to Walkerton

Sat., June 6 - River Stewardship Day

Spring TBA - River Day at Sandy Point State Forest

Time to pay your dues

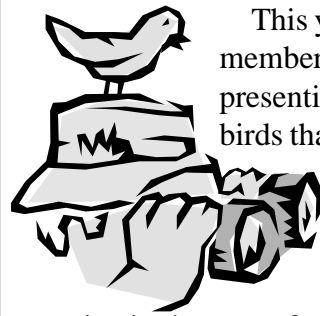
If you haven't paid dues for 2009, bring your checkbook to the annual meeting. Dues are still \$15/yr. for the family. We try to keep expenses to a minimum as an all volunteer organization. We've been able to provide canoe trips and other outdoor educational experiences and feed volunteers at Stewardship Day this past year because of your contributions and those of our corporate sponsors.



Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers Association newsletter

MPRA annual meeting and potluck dinner to be held Feb. 20

Our annual meeting and pot luck dinner will be Friday, Feb. 20 at the King William Fire and Rescue Building in Aylett. Brunswick stew, chicken and beverages will be provided. Those attending are asked to bring a salad, side dish, bread or dessert. Social time will begin at 6 PM, followed by dinner at 6:30, and the program beginning at 7 PM. Two tickets to the Indian Rivers Humane Society's upcoming Casino night (March 7) will be given away as a door prize.



This year's speaker will be Teta Kain, noted birder and member of the Friends of the Dragon Run. Teta will be presenting **Feeding Wild Birds**, a program highlighting birds that are commonly encountered at feeders. Teta will give tips on what to feed birds, as well as how to identify them, how to attract more birds year round and keep them safe from predators.

President Chris Henicheck will highlight the organization's events for 2008 and we will elect officers and board members. We're looking for new folks to join the board. If you are interested in getting more involved in the organization as a board member or volunteering for our many projects, call Chris at (804) 399-5347.

Volunteers needed for kiosk check up

On Sunday, March 29, MPRA volunteers will do a check up/spruce up of our kiosk sites. Members have adopted each of the sites. We plan to replace some plywood, update maps and signs, cut brush, pick up litter and repair roofs, where needed. Sign up at the annual meeting, or call Chris or email Dawn (dshank51@msn.com) if you want to help. Details, where to meet, etc. will also be posted on the website soon.

Become an MPRA fan on Facebook

Board member Ryan Evers recently created a page for MPRA on Facebook. If you are on Facebook, check it out and become a fan. There are already some photos up and events listed. Thanks, Ryan.

Hosts with the mosts

Thanks to the John and Betty Jensen for hosting a great stew cookout Rent Party in their "shed" in early November. Everyone had a great time.

Thanks also to Bob and Adele Smith who opened their festive home for a December Rent Party. Lots of goodies and Betty Rose's shining cherries brought holiday cheer. Ho Ho Ho.

Rent parties help us raise a few bucks, but more importantly, they provide an opportunity to get together and talk about what's going on related to the rivers, swap fish stories, plan canoe trips and make new friends. If you'd like to host a party or organize a paddle, let us know. Everyone brings food and drink to share. All you have to do is set the date and provide a place for it to happen.



2008 Year in Review

HHMS River Rats Club Last winter & spring, MPRA volunteers worked with the Hamilton-Holmes Middle School to create tree ID signs for the outdoor classroom project at Sandy Point.

HHMS River Day - June - MPRA sponsored a canoe trip for the HHMS River Rats. The group paddled from Walkerton to Sandy Point, where they had lunch and seined with MPRA volunteers.



River Stewardship

Day - In early June, we sponsored the 17th annual River Stewardship Day. Kitty Cox and site captains organized trash pick up on the rivers. MPRA also partnered with Three Rivers SWCD on a rain barrel workshop. Boy Scouts and a group of horseback riders worked on trails at the State Forest. It was a hot day, but the Scouts got an extra treat being able to visit a historic camp set up by the river and a canoe trip from Sandy Point to Dick Campbell's cottage for lunch. After Stewardship Day, several members and scout leaders spent the night at Sandy Point and had a great time fishing, swimming and playing tag in the dark.

Locust Grove Wine & Arts Festival - The next weekend was another scorcher as MPRA manned the Kids River Tent at the festival. Kids helped decorate two rain barrels.



Christ Church School River Adventure Camp -

Again this year, MPRA helped the school with camping logistics along the Mattaponi River and hosted the high school students to dinner on their week-long exploration of the river.

Meadow Farm Event Park planning - MPRA board members participated in educational planning for the new site of the State Fair in Hanover. We are working with the fair staff on installing two kiosks on a mile-long water trail planned for the park.

King & Queen Elementary School River Day -

On a wet, frigid day in October, MPRA volunteers, historical interpreter Willie Balderson and employees from Virginia Cooperative Extension, Three Rivers SWCD, King William County and Virginia Dept. of Forestry met 6th, 7th and 8th grade classes at Sandy Point.



Students rotated through stations on wildlife, forestry, aquatics, river history, watersheds, and water quality monitoring. Many of the students had never walked in the woods or touched a fish... Mission accomplished.



Down on the Farm Tour - On Oct. 25, MPRA set up a rain barrel/lawn care exhibit at Elsing Green. The tour was hosted by the Tidewater RC&D Council, Dept. of Conservation & Recreation, Three Rivers SWCD, VA Cooperative Extension, VIMS, and Colonial Farm Credit.

Kayak for Sale - \$375

Old Town Loon Model 111, excellent condition
blue, 11 ft. 1" long, weighs 47 lbs,
carries 275 lbs., adjustable seat and feet rests
Call Chip Underwood, CUnder8593@aol.com
804-314-4719 or 746-9701

Invite a friend to join. MPRA - \$15 year for individual or family, \$50 Business/organization. Include your name, address, phone, email address and send to:
MPRA, P.O. Box 157, Walkerton, VA 23177



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 website: www.mpra.org