



Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers Association newsletter

Winter 2011 calendar

Check out www.mpra.org
for upcoming events

**Jan. 28 - Annual Meeting
& Pot Luck Dinner**, 6 PM,
KW Fire and Rescue Building
in Aylett

**June 4 - River Stewardship
Day**

Come to the MPRA Annual Meeting & Pot Luck Dinner

MPRA's Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner will be held on Friday, Jan. 28, 2011 at the King William Fire and Rescue Squad Building in Aylett. A social time will begin at 6 PM, followed by dinner at 6:30 and the program. This year we will highlight our accomplishments and new committees. Everyone should bring a covered dish. Beverages will be provided. Bring a friend/prospective member.

The annual meeting is also a time to pay dues. Family membership is still only \$15 and helps support our many programs and projects. Don't miss a great time catching up with your river friends.

Note: Once a year, MPRA's newsletter is printed in hard copy form. The other editions are published on-line to save money, paper and postage. The following article appeared in the fall edition. It is reprinted here for the sake of those who don't have computers or didn't read it to explain our new committee structure. Sign up for a committee on the back page.



Holiday Party

Thanks to Bob and Adele Smith (*pictured above center with Garrie and Monica Rouse*) for hosting MPRA's holiday party again this December. "High Banks" was beautifully decorated. Everyone enjoyed goodies, talked about MPRA and tasted Betty Rose's infamous drunken cherries. MPRA's rent parties are a social time for members to get together to share ideas and donate a few bucks to the cause. Members bring food and drink to share. If you'd like to host a "rent party" this year, contact Dawn Shank.

Get more involved . . . serve on a committee.

The MPRA board hopes to get more members directly involved by creating a new committee structure. Like many organizations, MPRA is blessed with a core group of dedicated volunteers who work on its projects. The board has adopted a new approach to get more members involved and make board meetings more efficient. We created six committees that will meet independently of the board, work out project plans and report to the

board. Each committee will be chaired by a current board member. Below is a description of each committee, the chair, goals and current activities that would fall under the committee.

If you are interested in working on a specific project or committee, contact the committee chair or email a message to staff@mpra.org and we'll see that it's passed on to the appropriate person.

Water Trail/Sandy Point - Chris Henicheck, chair

Goal: Maintain and improve the water trail kiosk sites as part of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Water Trail and Captain John Smith Water Trail.

Activities: Repair, maintain and clean up kiosk sites on a regular basis; recruit and coordinate volunteers to adopt kiosk sites; work with Virginia Dept. of Forestry to maintain and improve Sandy Point State Forest and coordinate group camping there; install new kiosks (Meadow Farm Event Park state fair site).

River Stewardship Day - Kitty Cox, chair

Goal: Clean up litter and debris from the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers and increase awareness of our unique river resources so that participants will be motivated to take an active role in river stewardship in our communities.

Activities: Coordinate the annual River Stewardship Day (set for June 4,

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2011) and clean up public boat landings on a periodic basis during the year.

Scenic River Designation/River Issues - Eugene Rivara, chair

Goal: Act to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers. Bring specific legislation about river issues to the attention of MPRA members.

Activities: Work with other organizations and local governments in the York watershed to get a section of one or both rivers designated a Scenic Waterway. Keep members informed of river issues through speakers, workshops and the MPRA newsletter.



Schools of Shad/Education - Dawn Shank and Audrey Mitchell, cochairs

Goal: To educate students and citizens about the natural and cultural heritage of the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers through hands-on environmental education outreach, such as river days and paddling trips.

Activities: Coordinate a River Day for middle school students, partner with 4-H to hold a summer river camp, coordinate at least one educational paddle.

Bird/Wildlife Projects - Brad Davis, chair

Goal: Inventory and protect wildlife species and habitats in the watershed.

Activities: Construct and place prothonotary warbler and duck boxes, recruit riparian land owners to allow boxes on their property, inventory boxes, track and report to others conducting research, provide environmental education about wildlife and habitats through publications, website, workshops and public outreach.

Outreach/Communications - Bob Gray, webmaster, Dawn Shank, newsletter, Ryan Evers, Facebook *Goal:* Keep members informed of activities and issues.

Activities: Update websites. Produce quarterly newsletters for members (three electronic, one paper mailed to membership prior to the annual meeting). Produce press releases about MPRA activities. Provide speakers to organizations upon request.

2010 MPRA Accomplishments

- ◆ Led a wetlands education station at EE Day for 6th graders in Hanover and Caroline Counties at Meadow Farm Event Park
- ◆ Worked on a new kiosk site at Meadow Farm Event Park, site of the State Fair of Virginia
- ◆ Held Spring Paddle from Zoar to Aylett
- ◆ Held 20th Annual River Stewardship Day
- ◆ Held a family campout at Sandy Point
- ◆ Worked the River/Kid's Tent at Locust Grove Wine and Art Festival
- ◆ Helped build trails and maintain Sandy Point State Forest, and coordinated group camping for Boy Scout troops
- ◆ Found new locations for, installed, mapped, cleaned and inventoried prothonotary warbler boxes and duck boxes
- ◆ Coordinated River Day for more than 180 Hamilton-Holmes Middle School 6th-graders
- ◆ Held a members' bonfire at Sandy Point State Forest that included a spooky hayride tour
- ◆ Held two rent parties
- ◆ Organized informal members' paddle
- ◆ Signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the National Park Service for the Captain John Smith Water Trail and the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network



Garrie Rouse helps students take soil samples to determine wetland delineation at River Day (left).

Bob Ehrhart and son caught fish during the spring paddle from Zoar to Aylett (center).

Members cooked hotdogs over the fire at Sandy Point in October. (bottom left).



MPRA President Chris Henicheck with his daughter Lily at the Locust Grove Wine and Art Festival.

Nominations for 2011 Officers:

The following slate of officers will be nominated at the Annual Meeting:

- President - Eugene Rivara
- Vice-President - Catherine Short
- Secretary - Audrey Mitchell
- Treasurer - Bob Smith

A huge thank you to Chris Henicheck, Chip Underwood, Audrey Mitchell and Dawn Shank who served as 2010 officers.

Chris Henicheck has been an outstanding president for MPRA. Under his leadership, we have seen the water trail kiosk sites improve and grow in number. Chris has increased partnerships with scout troops, the Virginia Dept. of Forestry, as well as

the National Park Service. The improvements at Sandy Point State Forest are a visible sign of his dedication and hard work. He loves the place and it shows. He is a man of action and energy. Chris' time as president is over at our annual meeting. Chris has consented to be chair of the Water Trail Committee, so he can still mow grass at Sandy Point.

Thanks also to the following board members for service to the organization in 2010: Bob Gray, Meade Anderson, Garrie Rouse, Kat Rouse, John and Betty Jensen, Marybeth Hawn, Kitty Cox, Ryan Evers, Phil and Betty Rose, Brad Davis, Marion Jones, Josh Rellick, Adele and Bob Smith, Eugene Rivara, and Catherine Short.

If you haven't paid your dues for 2011, please return this form with your payment of \$15 for an individual or family membership. Please make checks payable to MPRA. Thanks.

Send to: MPRA
P.O. Box 157
Walkerton, VA 23177

2011 Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

Email address: _____

Phone: _____

Volunteer/committee interests: Please check any that apply:

- River Stewardship Day** (need volunteers to pick up trash by boat or walking on June 4, also need help with picnic, getting sponsors, door prizes, logistics)
- Water Trail/Sandy Point** (need volunteers to construct/maintain trails at Sandy Point, improve and maintain facilities at Sandy Point, clean up and maintain kiosk sites along the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers, attend meetings of Chesapeake Bay Gateways Trail, post information at kiosk sites)
- Scenic River Designation/Legislative** (need volunteers to attend public meetings and pass along information to members, newsletter editor, webmaster, help get information out to landowners and the general public about scenic river designation, meet with county officials when necessary, bring river issues to the attention of the board/members for appropriate action.)
- Schools of Shad/Education** - (need volunteers to work directly with students at River Days and camps leading environmental education activities, help with logistics for River Days and camps, lead or help plan and implement paddling trips, help provide information and education about the York watershed to groups, especially schools, lead rain barrel construction workshops and stewardship activities).
- Bird/Wildlife Projects** - (need volunteers to construct, maintain and inventory bird boxes for the Prothonotary Warbler Project and other bird projects (duck boxes, annual Audubon Christmas bird count, offer your property for housing a bird box, find other property owners to host boxes, provide information about wildlife/ fishing, etc. to public through newsletter, website, public speaking, workshops, etc., lead stewardship activities)
- Outreach/Communications** - (need volunteers to write river observations on the MPRA Facebook page, public speaking)

I'm interested in: paddling get togethers attending rent parties camping
 I have a boat.

Visit www.mpra.org for the latest updates on events and projects.