



## Spring Paddle

We had great weather for the spring paddle on April 29. Thirty people and a few dogs paddled from Garnett's Creek to Sandy Point State Forest and returned to the Shank's backyard where the Cornerstone Community Development Center served up crab cake sandwiches for lunch. MPRA raised \$300 for the charity.

The paddle events we sponsor provide an opportunity to make new friends, find new fishing holes and connect people to the rivers. There are lots of opportunities coming up in June. Sign up!



## June is River Month 2017

With summer approaching, people are thinking about getting outdoors to enjoy the rivers. Last year the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers Association (MPRA) expanded its 26<sup>th</sup> annual River Stewardship Day to a month-long celebration of our local rivers. Again this year, MPRA volunteers have planned opportunities for people to immerse themselves in the rivers' natural and cultural heritage during the month of June.

MPRA is leading paddle trips, a rain barrel workshop, an evening historical cruise, a river clean-up and picnic. The **June is River Month** schedule of events is:

**Thursday, June 1 – Afternoon paddle**, meet at the old Walkerton bridge, 4 PM

**Saturday, June 3 – West Point Paddle**, Meet at Glass Island Landing at 10:30 AM.

**Wednesday, June 7 – Rain Barrel workshop**, 6-8 PM, Upper King William Branch of Pamunkey Regional Library. Call 804-769-3731 to register. Limited attendance, pre-registration is required. We have 18 barrels.

**Friday, June 9 – Historical Pontoon Boat Cruise**, 5 PM. Leave from Campbell's dock on the Mattaponi. Limited numbers, pre-registration is required.

**Sunday, June 18 – Father's Day Fishing Paddle** from Zoar to Aylett on the Mattaponi, meet at the Zoar State Forest canoe launch (lower) parking lot at 8:30 AM.

**Saturday, June 24 – River Clean Up**, followed by a **volunteers' picnic** at 1 PM, Campbell's Pavilion near King William Courthouse. Please register for the picnic. Groups or walkers are encouraged to contact MPRA about a site to clean up. Individuals are encouraged to register where they will be picking up trash along the river and at boat landings.

**Monday, June 26 – River Girls' Paddle** on Garnett's Creek, 1 PM, Meet at Dawn Shank's house.

Visit [www.mpra.org](http://www.mpra.org) to register. Questions? Email [matpamrivers@gmail.com](mailto:matpamrivers@gmail.com). Contact Calm Water Adventures (804) 921-1001, [Cwoodsman1@aol.com](mailto:Cwoodsman1@aol.com) to rent kayaks or canoes.

Other organizations and agencies are also sponsoring river events during June. The statewide Free Fishing weekend is June 3-4. Virginians can fish without a fishing license. King William Parks and Recreation, in partnership with the Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries, is hosting a fishing day at Sandy Point State Forest on June 3. However, registration is already full for this popular event.

### *June is River Month, continued*

The Town of West Point is offering food trucks & music near the Glass Island Landing June 2 and 23 from 5-8 PM, and Stand Up Paddleboard instruction and rentals June 11, 25 and July 1. For more information about West Point events, contact Greg Kelly at 804-314-0253.

Visit local museums to learn about the importance of the rivers in history. The King William Historical Museum located at the old KW Courthouse, King and Queen Tavern Museum at King and Queen Courthouse, the Pamunkey Indian Museum on the Pamunkey Reservation, and the Mattaponi Indian Museum on the Mattaponi Reservation all have interesting exhibits and information about the rivers.

MPRA thanks its 2017 business partners and friends who help make River Month activities possible. They include: MPR volunteers, All Stewed Up Catering, Baylands Credit Union, Bennett Mineral, Call Armistead Computers, Calm Water Adventures, Charles Reed Firewood & Mulch, Country Courier, Dominion Resources Services Inc., Farm Bureau Insurance, Garden Club of Middle Peninsula, Gilgit Charitable Trust, JoJo's Huntin' & Fishin' Express, the Monday Club, NewMarket Foundation, Pamunkey Regional Library, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, Scott's Store, Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District, Tidewater Review, Town of West Point, Tucker's Recreation Park, LLC, Twin Rivers Realty, United Steelworkers Local 8-0417, Virginia Cooperative Extension 4-H, VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries, VA Dept. of Forestry, Walkerton Corporation, Walton Construction and West Point Pharmacy.

For details and registration for paddles and workshops, visit [www.mpra.org](http://www.mpra.org).

### **River Camp**

July 25 through 27<sup>th</sup> MPRA will hold River Camp. For the past six years, MPRA has partnered with King William and King and Queen Cooperative Extension 4-H on the day camp for 8-14-year-olds. Students board a school bus at Hamilton-Holmes Middle School each morning and head to Sandy Point State Forest. Natural resource agency personnel and MPRA volunteers serve as instructors. Space is limited to 40 children on a first come/first served basis. The cost is \$30/day or \$25 for all three days. For information on registration,

### *(River Camp, cont.)*

contact Tina Vincel or Rachael Winston at the VA Cooperative Extension office at (804) 769-4955.



### **Wacky Walkerton Waft Wace**

The Wacky Walkerton Waft Wace has become a favorite activity for many MPRA members. As part the Walkerton Fire Dept.'s Walkerton Day the first Saturday in August, it's a fun wace for the coveted Pwastic Cup trophy. Start working on your waft and cwev. Weginstration is \$15/team to benefit the Mattaponi Dive Team.

### **Caroline Scouts Clean Up the Mattaponi**

Stearmsweepers in Caroline County organized a litter clean up on the Mattaponi at three river access sites in early May. Ladysmith Boy Scouts and volunteers from the Quantico Marine Base got 17 tires, a car bumper, an old trailer axle and a truckload of trash from sites on Stonewall Jackson Rd., Paige Rd. and Nelson Hill Rd. in Milford.

Afterward a fun and successful job, volunteers enjoyed all-you-can-eat pizza at Pizza Hut.

*Reported by David Nunnally, Caroline County*

