

# MPRA NEWSLETTER

## 2017 Highlights

- Spring paddle
- River month paddles
- River History Cruise
- Rain Barrel workshop
- River Clean up & Picnic
- River Camp
- HHMS River Day
- Wacky Walkerton Waft Wace



## ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR JAN. 19 AT NEW LOCATION

This year's annual membership meeting and pot luck supper will be held **Friday, Jan. 19 at the King William Ruritan Building off Rt. 30 in King William.** The event will begin at 6:30 PM with a social time, followed by dinner, business meeting and a presentation by the Friends of the Rappahannock. Bring a pot luck dish to share. Beverages will be furnished.



Historic River Cruisers celebrating June is River Month.

## JUNE IS RIVER MONTH 2017

MPRA celebrated *June is River Month* with some old and new activities. We started the month with an afternoon paddle from Walkerton led by Audrey Mitchell. On June 18 there was a Father's Day fishing paddle led by Billy Moore and Brad Davis. On June 26, Dawn Shank led a River Girls' Paddle on Garnett's Creek.

New this year, MPRA partnered with the King and Queen Historical Society to put together a river history cruise on the Mattaponi. Thanks to Page McLemore and Biddie Sheler for helping to assemble history and photos of locations and homes between North Bank and the Mattaponi Indian Reservation. Five pontoon boats, captained by Bin Trice, Mike Greenwood, Ben Owen, Gene Campbell and Wallace (Hub) Mahanes left the dock at Gene Campbell's for the river tour. It was a perfect evening and everyone had a great time. We hope to do another section of the Mattaponi next summer. The rivers are rich in both natural and cultural history.

On June 7, we held a rain barrel workshop at the King William Branch of Pamunkey Regional Library. It was also well attended. Thanks to Billy Moore, Jason Butcher, Eugene Rivara, Buck and Will Reed for their leadership, tools and help.

We went back to our old River Stewardship Day format on June 24 with a river clean up, followed by a picnic at Campbell's Pavilion. All Stewed Up Catering brought their great BBQ and we enjoyed Fasmart fried chicken and watermelon.

Plans will begin soon for next summer. If you'd like to lead a paddle or plan an activity, email [matpamrivers@gmail.com](mailto:matpamrivers@gmail.com) and let us know your ideas to celebrate our rivers.

**Your 2018 dues  
are due!**

Dues are \$15/year for a family membership. Send your name, address, email and phone number to:

**MPRA  
P.O. Box 115  
Walkerton, VA  
23177**

**MPRA Board:**

Billy Moore, President  
Mike Greenwood, V. P.  
Josh Rellick, Sec.  
Steve Mitchell, Treas.  
Armistead Saffer, Bob & Adele Smith, Buck & Will Reed, Christian VanLandingham, Lou Verner, Elizabeth Christeller, Jon Shank, Owen Johnson, Dave Slack, Sally Mills, John Gresham, Bob Gray, Rachael Winston. Committee Chairs: Brad Davis, Audrey Mitchell, Dawn Shank, Eugene Rivara  
Email: [matpamrivers@gmail.com](mailto:matpamrivers@gmail.com)

## WACKY WALKERTON WAFT WACE

If there's one thing we know how to do in MPRA, it's to have fun! One of the cwaziest events we organize each year is the Wacky Walkerton Waft Wace. This year there weren't many entries, but those of us who came with themed wafts and costumes had a blast. Entries featured a birthday cake in honor of Dawn Shank's granddaughter's 10th birthday (the River Girls) and the Monarchs, a butterfly and two cocoons (Sally Mills, Elizabeth Cristeller and Lou Verner). The winners of the race this year were Austin Lewis and Dr. Lewis's grandkids, visiting from Colorado, who actually competed in a kayak, but since it was their first time, we let them have the coveted first pwace Pwastic Cup award. The race is usually held the first Saturday of August, as part of Walkerton Day.



## RIVER CAMP FUN

In July, MPRA and Virginia Cooperative Extension 4-H held our seventh River Camp at Sandy Point State Forest on the Mattaponi River. Campers, ages eight to fourteen, spent three days outside fishing, seining, hiking and learning about forestry, wildlife and the rivers. This year, director Brad Davis included some new activities: campfire building, water physics and building shelters with minimal supplies. The kids hiked to a location in the woods, where they found tarps, rope and several long poles already cut. In 15 minutes, each small group had to plan and construct a shelter they could fit under that would protect them from rain. After each group completed their shelter, the kids got inside and a bucket of water was poured on top of the shelter to test it. This proved to be great fun and a great way to problem solve and work cooperatively as a group.



As children and families spend more time with electric devices and have less direct connections to the outdoors, the three days of being "unplugged" has more and more value. Over the years we have been coordinating the camp, we see kids enjoy being outside. We rarely hear a complaint no matter how hot it is.

It's rewarding to watch these kids grow and appreciate the rivers. This kind of program is crucial to the future protection of our resources. People with direct connections to the rivers care about them. Our volunteers and

resource agency personnel who teach, guide, plan and work with the kids do an excellent job year after year. We have as much fun as the kids do! If you'd like to help next summer, email [matpamrivers@gmail.com](mailto:matpamrivers@gmail.com).