

# MPRA NEWSLETTER



## Summer events

**Friday, June 1, 4 PM**

**Walkerton Afternoon Paddle**—  
Bring your boat to the old bridge  
boat landing and join old and  
new friends. We're especially  
encouraging our teens to join us  
on this after school paddle.

**Friday, June 15, 5:30 PM**

**Volunteer Picnic**, Campbell's  
pavilion.

**Saturday, June 16, all day**

**River Clean Up**

**Monday, June 18, 1 PM**

**Garnett's Creek Paddle**

**July 9—River Camp registration**

**July 26-27—River Camp**



*Will Reed, one of our student  
reps, enjoys paddling on Gar-  
nett's Creek last summer.*

## JUNE IS RIVER MONTH

Once again, we're trying something a little different for our annual river clean up. We've been setting a day to celebrate and spruce up the rivers for almost two decades. Saturday, June 16 will be our 28th year of asking volunteers to comb the shorelines and boat landings for trash. Thanks to our sponsors, WestRock, Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula and the Monday Club who help make this and other activities possible.

### Picnic

Traditionally, we've held a picnic following the clean up at Campbell's pavilion on the Mattaponi near King William Courthouse. We will still have the picnic, with All Stewed Up BBQ, beans, slaw, and fried chicken in the same location (thanks to Eugene, Suzanne and Wyatt Campbell again!). But, this year we will hold the picnic on Friday, June 15, the evening before the clean up. Bring your favorite beverage. We will provide water and iced tea. In addition to the food, there will be corn hole and time to relax by the river. Register so that we have an idea of how many people to prepare for. Visit [www.mpra.org](http://www.mpra.org) and click on the link to register online or email [matpamrivers@gmail.com](mailto:matpamrivers@gmail.com) to let us know if you're coming.

### Saturday Clean Up

Volunteers can choose their own time and place to clean up on the river on Saturday or join a walking team or group at boat landings or roadsides. Call Eugene Rivara at (804)769-0568 and leave a message or email [matpamrivers@gmail.com](mailto:matpamrivers@gmail.com) if you'd like to work with a group. Registration for the clean-up is also online on the website. We would like to know where you are planning to work ahead of time and will also make assignments at the picnic the night before if you would like a suggestion of where to go by boat or on foot. The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is providing us with trash bags and asks that we let them know the amount of trash volunteers pick up. Pick up trash bags at the Friday picnic or at one of the boat landings Saturday morning.

We hope you can help keep our waterways clean and look forward to seeing you at the picnic. Don't forget to let us know if you're coming to the picnic.

## UPCOMING PADDLES

It was a cool, wet spring, but it's time to get back in the water. Come join us for an **afternoon paddle on June 1**. Meet at the old Walkerton bridge boat landing by 4 PM and join us for our first paddle of the season. No charge, just be there with your boat and your life jacket and join the fun. You can register online at [www.mpra.org](http://www.mpra.org) to let us know you're coming. We don't want to leave you!

Dawn Shank is opening up the annual **River Girls Paddle on Garnett's Creek** this year to the Bone Crushers Fishing Club and any other paddlers (continued p.2)



*Dave Slack with the VA Dept. of Forestry, is one of the many natural resource professionals that teaches at River Camp every summer. Thanks, Dave!*

#### **Paddles, continued**

interested in joining the ladies. Meet on Garnett's Mill Lane on Monday, **June 18 at 1 PM**. We will put in at the private neighborhood landing, paddle to the sand bar at the mouth of Garnett's Creek and enjoy a lazy afternoon floating and playing at the "Redneck Riviera". Bring a snack if you'd like. Register online at [www.mpra.org](http://www.mpra.org) to sign up. For more information, email [matpamrivers@gmail.com](mailto:matpamrivers@gmail.com).

If any members are interested in organizing another paddle and wish MPRA to get the word out, put a message on our Facebook page or [matpamrivers@gmail.com](mailto:matpamrivers@gmail.com) and we can help publicize it to members.



## RIVER CAMP

July 25-27 is the date set for the eighth MPRA and Virginia Cooperative Extension 4-H River Camp at Sandy Point State Forest on the Mattaponi River. Campers, ages eight to fourteen will spend three days outside fishing, seining, hiking and learning about forestry, wildlife and the rivers. This year, director Brad Davis has some new activities on the schedule, including archery, art and fossils. Favorites from last year, water physics and building shelters return.

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.

Registration begins July 9. The cost is \$25 for the three days. VA Cooperative Extension is handling the registration. The 30 to 35 slots usually fill quickly and campers are accepted when their forms and payment is received. Call (804) 769-4955 or go by the VA Cooperative Extension Office in King William or King and Queen to register on or after July 9.



## PAMUNKEY TRIBE BEGINS STURGEON STUDY

Allyson Gray-Snead, Program Specialist for the Pamunkey Indian Tribal Resource Center, is looking for landowners who are willing to allow the tribe riverkeeper to place a device on their docks and allow access several times a year to study sturgeon habitat. The tribal member will conduct water monitoring in three separate areas in the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers. The devices are less than a foot long and 2' in diameter.

The Pamunkey Tribe received the grant from NOAA to conduct the study. MPRA helped the Navy and the VA Institute of Marine Science identify land owners several years ago in an initial study of sturgeon in the watersheds. If you are interested, contact Ally at [programspecialisttrc@gmail.com](mailto:programspecialisttrc@gmail.com). Information collected by the Riverkeeper will be available through the tribe's website.

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