

# MPRA NEWSLETTER



28th annual River  
Clean up

## Thanks to our 2018 sponsors:

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay  
WestRock  
Schools & Barnette, LLC  
Tucker's Recreation  
Park & Boat Rental  
Gilgat Foundation  
Scott's Store  
The Monday Club  
Garden Club of the  
Middle Peninsula  
Three Rivers SWCD  
United Steelworkers  
Local 8-0467  
Baylands Family Credit  
Union  
Eugene Campbell  
family (for the use of  
their pavilion for our  
River Month picnic)  
Dominion Energy

## ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR JAN. 18

Bring a dish and a friend to the Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner at the King William Ruritan Building. Social time begins at 6 PM, followed by dinner at 6:30, and election of the 2019 board. Dave Slack from the VA Dept. of Forestry will present a program about native trees. The following slate of officers and board members will be nominated: President—Dawn Shank, Vice-President—Dave Slack, Secretary—Josh Rellick, Treasurer—Steve Mitchell, Past President—Billy Moore, Board members: Student representatives — Tanner Lipscomb & Ethan Davis, Mary Shipman, Sally Mills, Elizabeth Christeller, Adele & Bob Smith, Armistead Saffer, Lou Verner, and Jason Butcher. April Hill Deacy, representing the Pamunkey Indian Tribe and Christina Ruszczyk-Murray of Virginia Cooperative Extension are being nominated as new board members. Committee chairs, Brad Davis (Wildlife Projects), Audrey Mitchell (Education), and Mike Greenwood (Fund Raising), also sit on the board.

If you are interested in working on a specific project or committee, contact us at [matpamrivers@gmail.com](mailto:matpamrivers@gmail.com).

## A LOOK BACK AT 2018

We had another successful year working together, paddling, and educating people about the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers. Many of us signed a pledge to reduce the use of single-use plastic water bottles and bags.

We organized another successful river clean up, enjoyed a picnic on the Mattaponi, helped researchers gain access to the river to gather data on sturgeon, and organized several paddles during River Month.

The rainy weather cut short one day of River Camp, but the kids managed to pack three days of learning and fun into two. We taught more than 180 sixth graders at River Day and had several parent chaperones tell us they had been on the field trip to Sandy Point themselves . . . we've been at it a long time, folks! Keep up the good work.



River girls (& guys) paddle  
from Garnett's Creek

**Your 2019 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. Membership may also be paid online through PayPal. Visit [www.mpra.org](http://www.mpra.org).





Mr. Todkill at River Day



Shelter building at River Camp



Hunting for fossils at River Camp



Learning about wildlife

## MPRA IS AWARDED TWO GRANTS

MPRA has recently been awarded two grants for 2019 education projects. Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation has donated \$900 to support River Day and River Camp. The Dominion Energy grant will provide funds for a live animal program, a canoe trip during camp this summer, and will fund a visit from Mr. Todkill (pictured left) . . . THE favorite station at the middle school River Day each fall.

Upon approval of the 2019 General Assembly budget, a \$500 grant will be sent to MPRA by the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund. The money for the fund comes from the sale of Chesapeake Bay license plates (so get one!). MPRA is one of 90 organizations and schools whose projects were recommended by a legislative committee to receive a grant. The money will be used for replacing seine nets, replacement pieces for our Enviroscape model and purchasing wildlife skins & skulls for our environmental education projects.

MPRA is an all-volunteer organization. Our major expenses are a monthly storage space rental, mailbox fees, portable toilet rentals, supplies & food for events, printing and mailing a newsletter once a year, and supplies for special projects. We appreciate the generous support from our sponsors and partners (listed on the front page). But, we especially thank the people who care about, play on and work on behalf of the rivers...you.

Thanks for being a member of this 28-year old group dedicated to the stewardship, preservation and appreciation of the natural and cultural heritage of the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers. If you've never been on one of our paddles, cleaned up the rivers, taken a kid fishing or been to one of our educational programs, make it one of your new year's resolutions to get more involved.



River Month Kick-off Paddle at Walkerton

NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED, CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD. INDEED, IT IS THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS. Margaret Mead

