



James River Reach

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Cast Your Vote for Virginia Parks

On Election Day, November 5, 2002, Virginians will vote on a \$119 million Virginia Parks and Natural Areas bond referendum. Passage of this referendum would provide \$30 million to purchase new park and natural area land, \$6.5 million for adding additional land to existing parks, \$4.5 million to protect park land from severe shoreline erosion, and \$78 million for construction, improvement and repair projects such as cabins and campgrounds throughout Virginia's 34 state parks.

Virginia State Parks had 7,170,052 visitors last year. Park visitors, 40% of whom were tourists from other states, contributed \$144 million to Virginia's economy. Our state budget for the next few years is going to be very tight. A bond issue is a low cost way of financing needed projects outside of the state budget. Passage of the bond issue by voters will insure that the necessary up-keep, improvement and repairs to our state parks can go forward.

Parade of Lights Just Around the Bend!

Mark your calendars for Dec 14 as JRAC sponsors the 10th Annual James River Parade of Lights, a bright and beautiful holiday evening on the river. Recognized as one of the top 20 events in the Southeast in 2001, this year's event promises to be a grand spectacle! Viewers at four popular spots will enjoy the spirited boat parade from the Intermediate Terminal in Richmond downstream to the Varina-Enon Bridge.

The boats will gather below Libby Hill Park where, at dusk, viewers will begin the countdown for the dazzling start of the grand illumination! Holiday entertainment and refreshments will be available at 4:30 pm at Libby Hill Park and at other sites beginning at 5:30 pm. Arrive early for parking and festivities and don't forget to dress warmly, carry a flashlight and bring binoculars!

For more information, call 717-6681

City of Richmond

- **Libby Hill Park**-Festivities begin at 4:30 pm. Countdown begins at 6 p.m.
- **Dock St.**-near the Annabel Lee-no formal festivities.

Henrico County

- **Osborne Boat Landing**-Festivities begin at 5:30 pm. Parade expected between 7-7:30 p.m.

Chesterfield County

- **Dutch Gap Boat Landing**-Festivities begin at 5:30 pm. Parade expected between 7:15-7:45 p.m.
- **The Bluff at Henricus Historical Park**-Festivities begin at 5:30 pm. Parade expected between 7:30-8 p.m. (Judges for the Parade will be hosted at this location)





A Token Fishing Adventure

By Mike Ostrander (opening Mike's 13 year old son, Mike)

"A couple years back my dad and I went fishing like we always do when I come over. It was a cool morning; we had woken up to a crisp dew that had soaked our shoes. We had our rods, reels, line, lures... you know, the basics. We knew the area of the James River well, we had been there before on several occasions, and expected the usual hours catch of five to six fish (it wasn't very good fishing). What we didn't expect was to stumble upon hundreds of old tokens and coins that weekend!

We sat down that morning and rigged up our rods. Two out of three times we would get snagged, the worst thing that can happen to a fisherman other than losing a fish. We wondered what was causing this to happen. Was it a log, a rock, some grass, or maybe just a really big fish? We had no idea! The next day was a James River Clean Up day, so we came back with snorkels and goggles to investigate what in the world was snagging our lines, and to clean up the bottom of the river. To our amazement it was a huge drop-off stuck with hundreds of other frustrated fishermen's lines, lures, weights and other such objects (hey, at least they lost some weight!)."

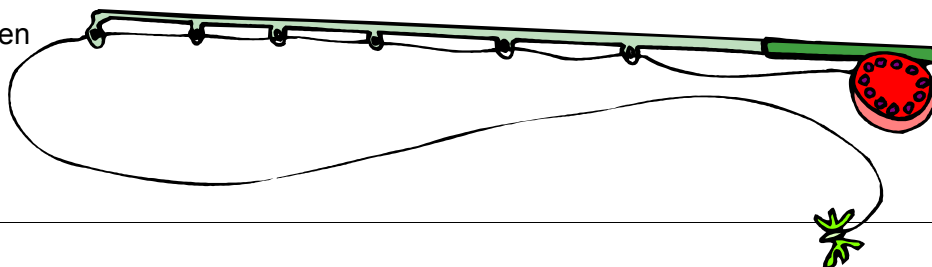
Like my son stated, it was a drop off stuck with all sorts of fishing tackle. Not only did we clean the river bottom of hundreds of old sinkers and lures, but we began to discover a few tokens and an occasional coin. Over the years, Mike and I have pinpointed where the tokens are but the biggest question for us now is "How did they get there?" From speaking with friends and a few historians, the ideas of how the tokens came to be there are diverse. One idea is a robber may have stolen a bag of coins and found they were worthless tokens and chucked them into the River. Someone else thinks that the area may have been a wishing well. My best guess is it's an old swimming hole where people would jump from a rope swing into the river. When the swinger would hit the water, the contents of their pockets would pop out from the force..

When we look at the different tokens and coins, there's no easy explanation. Nearly all of the tokens we've found are old gaming tokens. Most have 'Free Games' or 'For Amusement Only' and 'No Cash Value' stamped on them. Many are encrusted with bits of rock and debris from decades of life below the surface. Occasionally we'll find more interesting tokens. Some with writing like 'The Red Feather Café' or 'Southern Confection Company, Richmond, VA' or a token with a name or address like 'Property of Mike Sherer' or '3415 Washington Blvd., Chicago, ILL.' They are diverse. On a rare occasion we'll find an old coin. Coins from Panama, Canada, Germany, USA and even a few Chinese cash coins. But the question remains... where did this stuff come from!

In the spirit of fun and imagination (and maybe fact), my son and I would love to hear your ideas on how you think these tokens and coins got into the river. We're having a contest. Based on the information in this story, write down how you think the coins and tokens got into the river. The writers of the top three ideas (Mike and I will judge) will get a little bag of James River tokens as a prize.

Mail your ideas to Token Contest, 7239 Lookout Drive, Richmond, VA 23225.
Look for the winning ideas to be printed in the next issue of the Reach.

Good luck and don't follow us when we head out on the James, we only go out at night!



Member Focus-Dick Gibbons Retires

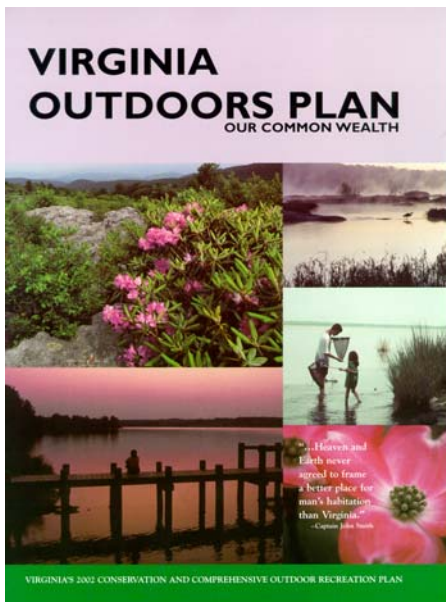


Last month Dick Gibbons’s many friends gathered to honor him on the occasion of his retirement after 38 years of service in the State Department of Conservation and Recreation. For 25 years, Dick served in the Division of State Parks, becoming Chief of Planning between 1985-88 and then as Environmental Program Manager of the Division of Planning and Resources. Over the years, his contributions have had an extraordinary influence on the development of Virginia’s State Parks, Scenic Rivers, State Trails, and other natural and historic resources. His 1997 nomination to election as a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects reads in part as follows: “The quality of the state park system, the existence of a state trail system, (154) miles of scenic rivers, and numerous resource management efforts and open space conservation projects are the direct result of his...years of public practice with the State of Virginia.”

As a devout landscape architect, Dick’s love of the natural landscape has led him to devote his professional life to shaping, protecting, and enhancing these valued resources. He has also been responsible for adding new treasures to Virginia’s commonwealth of public lands and waters. He has shepherded the Virginia Outdoors Plan as a framework for future planning; introduced landscape management concepts in habitat management; advocated the preservation of exceptional open space and vistas through thoughtful planning and workable strategies, such as conservation easements; promoted the conservation of major ecosystems and historic treasures; and worked to instill these values in local planning for parks, open spaces, and rivers. He has also worked continuously with students of landscape architecture to give them experience in park design, and to inspire them with his philosophy of joy in service.

Dick might appropriately be called the godfather of Virginia’s Scenic Rivers for his dedicated leadership and oversight of the Scenic River Program. He has evaluated rivers meriting scenic river status, promoted and supported legislative designations, and lent his own continuing support to nineteen scenic river boards. His cheerful smile and good ideas have enlivened many a scenic river board meeting. Fortunately, he assures us that he will still be with us from time to time in his support of our conservation goals.

We wish him a retirement of happy memories and continuing fulfillment!



Virginia Outdoor Plan-2002

by

Every five years, the Department of Conservation and Recreation revises their existing outdoor plan.

The 2002 Virginia Outdoors Plan is now available. This tremendously useful 400-page document was put together with the assistance of private citizens and Federal, State and local agencies. To quote Joseph H. Maroon, Director of DCR, “Virginia’s natural and recreational resources are of great interest to state residents and they expressed specific concerns for protecting open space across the state.” These concerns are addressed in this document.

(VOP continued on page 5)

James River Regional Cleanup... Success!

Cleaning over 50 miles of the river with more than 600 volunteers, the James River Regional Cleanup 2002 was a successful event. The low levels allowed more tires to be visible for cleanup and the lack of recent strong rains prevented trash from washing down from upstream tributaries.

Crews at seven regional sites, including a new site at the City of Lynchburg, collected 216 bags and 20 barrels of trash, 131 tires, 23 bags and 7 barrels of aluminum, 28 ½ bags and 8 barrels of plastic, 5 ½ bags and 8 barrels of glass, 1 bag of paper, and 2 barrels of cardboard.



*Good news...*11% increase from 2001 Cleanup in the number of participants.

*Bad news...*220% increase from 2001 Cleanup in the number of tires.

We thank the corporate sponsors, volunteers, and the Cleanup Committee for the regional cooperation!

Interpretive Guide to the Pony Pasture Rapids

A new publication is available thru James River Park System on the history, geology and ecology of the Pony Pasture Rapids area as explored along a series of inter-connected trails. Hands-on activities and leading questions make it appropriate for families and school groups, but even adults will find parts challenging. Contact Ralph White at 646-8911 to pick up your copy. The cost is \$1 plus shipping and handling.

Interpretive Guide to the Slave Trail

“Seeing the Scars of Slavery in the Environment” is a self-guiding tour of the route walked by slaves on their way in and out of the slave markets and the impact of slave labor on the environment. Written for adults, it is suitable for college and senior high school groups. It is available through the James River park System, Black History Museum, Valentine Museum, John Marshall House and Richmond City Recreation & Parks.

2003 James River Advisory Council Meeting Schedule

Thursday, January 23rd - 8:30 a.m.
Location: To Be Determined

Thursday, April 24th - 8:30 a.m.
Location: To Be Determined

Thursday, July 24th - noon
Henricus Educational Center

Thursday, October 23rd - 8:30 a.m.
Location: To Be Determined

For more information, contact Kim Conley at 748-1567 or conleyk@chesterfield.gov

James River Advisory Council

Our Vision...

A united community supporting and promoting the James River as a shared resource and enhance its health, beauty, heritage, economic vitality and recreation value.

Our Mission...

To promote and protect the James River as one of Central Virginia's greatest assets and one of America's most unique rivers, the James River Advisory Council serves as a forum for the diverse interests along the River and communicates with public officials and the public regarding issues, challenges, opportunities, threats and possibilities facing the river, its resources, and adjoining communities. The Council sponsors and facilitates activities and promotes public policy that focuses on the river, celebrates its beauty, and improves our use and appreciation of this extraordinary resource.

JUST WILD ABOUT ANIMALS!

The Maymont Nature Center is pleased to offer three new courses for students interested in Zoology.

Each course is designed for a specific age group and the curriculum is designed to teach care and maintenance of wild and domestic animals. Maymont's Robins Nature and Visitors Center, the Children's Farm and the wildlife exhibits will provide students with hands-on experience with over 80 species of native Virginia Wildlife and domestic farm animals. Topics include parasitology, nutrition, environment enrichment, conservation and ecology. On completion of the course, each student will receive a Maymont Diploma and a special Maymont Zoologist T-shirt.

Senior Zoologist - Designed for students in grades 6-8. The class will meet for 3 hours each Saturday, October 5 through 26, 2002.
Cost: \$69 per child; advanced registration required.

Advanced Zoologist - Designed for students in grades 9-12. The class will meet for 4 hours each Saturday, February 1 through 22, 2003.
Cost: \$79 per child (lunch included); advanced registration required.

Junior Zoology - Designed for students in grades 3-5. The class will meet for 2 hours each Saturday June 4th through 28, 2003.
Cost: \$59 per child; advanced registration is required.

For more information, please call 358-7166, extension 360 or e-mail zoologydept@maymont.org.

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WATERSHED EDUCATION FOR CHESTERFIELD SCHOOLS

Starting this fall, four Chesterfield County grade schools will be selected to have local watershed education and stewardship as an element of their environmental education.

This new element has been initiated by the *Friends of Chesterfield's Riverfront* to assist schools in receiving Virginia Naturally School Recognition. The program and is funded by a grant from the Virginia Environmental Endowment. Its purpose is to enhance the Standards of Learning based environmental curricula by including more information on our local rivers and their watersheds and more hands-on activities.

As part of the program, some pupils will be able to explore our local lakes, rivers and streams with the help of *Friends of Chesterfield's Riverfront*. Staff has organized teacher-training sessions and will assist with activities for high school students and the community at large. Topics to be explored include the role of land use, soil erosion, stream impacts, habitats, and human impacts related to water resources.

For more information on this exciting program, please call Janit Potter (804)796-6091 or e-mail riverfronts@earthlink.net.

(VOP continued from page 3)

The Virginia Outdoors Plan includes information from an inventory of more than 6,000 recreation sites across the state, results of recreational demand surveys and recommendations on how to meet those demands. In addition, it presents current issues and trends in outdoor recreation and open space protection, including quality of life, stewardship and sustainability, population increase and development and tourist and recreation economics. It also details findings and recommendations, complete with accompanying maps, for each of the 21 planning districts in the state.

Copies are available to the public. For more information, call (804) 786-5046 or write to DCR, 203 Governor Street, Suite 326, Richmond, Va. 23219. It can also be downloaded for free from www.dcr.state.va.us/pr/vopfiles.htm

BYRD PARK PUMP HOUSE NOW ON NATIONAL REGISTER

by Donald L. Charles

The Historic Richmond Foundation (HRF) is pleased to announce that the nomination of the Pump House for a place on the National Register of Historic Places was confirmed September 11, 2002 by the Department of Historic Resources State Review Board. The nomination application had been undertaken by HRF intern staff and promoted by HRF since early spring of this year.

National Register status will be of great value to the Pump House as HRF brings its sights to bear on that historic structure and its place in Richmond's character and history.

HRF is presently engaged in positive negotiations with the City's Department of Public Utilities (DPU) that would enable HRF to become the guidance organization for the Pump House

for a multi-year agreement period. DPU will retain ownership of the Pump House during and after HRF's involvement.

HRF would serve as the focus and the administration for awareness efforts, fund-raising, and fund management, stabilization/preservation, plan development, and subsequent restoration activities. The Pump House is a significant at-risk structure and will require significant energy and resources. Recent volunteer efforts at the Pump House have been a blessing and have set the stage for the vastly increased scopes of work needed.

At this point there is no plan for work beyond immediate, identifiable stabilization and fundamental preservation needs. Plans for future uses, options, and associated operational issues will not begin until funding for such a planning effort is in place. It is HRF's intent that those plans will be developed with the full participation, input, and concurrence of DPU, City Hall, the immediate residential community, and the preservation community.

HRF's involvement beyond stabilization and preservation will depend upon the outcome of future planning work and, of course, available funding.

For more information contact:
Donald L. Charles
Executive Director
Historic Richmond Foundation
804/643-8052
www.historicrichmond.com



Restoring the First Canal in America

By Ralph White

Lying at an acute angle to the Pump House are the remains of the first part of the 1790's Richmond Canal. Tall trees were cut this spring and a strong bridge was constructed in early summer to provide vehicular access across the 1820's Kanawah Canal. This fall a gravel ramp is being constructed into the Richmond Canal to permit equipment to remove brushy vegetation and repair the stone archway that once regulated water flow into the canal. By next summer, plans include rebuilding part of the original tow path, replacing fallen stones in the arch, and restoring a shallow ribbon of water in the canal itself. Several businesses including Transit Lumber and Eastern Steel Fasteners contributed supplies while a number of volunteer groups helped out (esp St. Christopher's School and the Bridge Division of Richmond Public Works). Special thanks is due to all the members of the Friends of the Pump House in particular Jim Rogers and Lyn Lineer.

Lower James River Water Trail

Over the next several months, the James River Association (JRA) will be developing a set of interpretive water trail maps to guide users of the James River through and around the Lower James River Water Trail. This trail extends approximately 110 miles, from the City of Richmond to Hampton Roads. The map for each segment will depict public access points, historic landmarks, natural sites, greenways and blueways, public beaches and picnic areas, hiking/biking/walking trails, camping areas and food/restroom services. Safety and emergency information along the route is also indicated. The maps are to be printed on waterproof paper and will be distributed at key locations throughout the region.

The project is being funded by the National Park Service through the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network Grant Program. The lower James River

was recently designated an official water trail under the Gateways Network, and as such will help connect other Gateway sites in the region, including Dutch Gap Conservation Area, Chippokes Plantation State Park, Jamestown Island, the Mariners' Museum, and Hoffer Creek Wildlife Preserve. This project is being conducted in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. Over the next several years, the James River Association plans to develop water trails along the entire length of the 340-mile James River.

For additional information about this project, or any of the Association's ongoing activities, please contact Jenny West, JRA's Director of Development/Communications, at 804-730-2898, or by e-mail at jwest@jamesriverassociation.org.

GRANT MONEY AVAILABLE FOR WATER RELATED INITIATIVES

Local governments, soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) and community watershed organizations in Virginia's Chesapeake Bay watershed are eligible for grants through a new program sponsored by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). These grant awards will establish tangible and innovative projects to improve local land-use planning and management for nonpoint source pollution (NPS) prevention. The awards are intended to support of Virginia's commitments in the Chesapeake Bay Agreement known as *Chesapeake 2000: A Watershed Partnership*. In cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Chesapeake Bay Program, a total of \$400,000 is available for grants through this program. Project proposals were due September 13, 2002.

Funds will be allocated to projects depending on the nature and geographic distribution of the proposals received and the actual scoring of the projects. DCR anticipates funding at least four primary projects above \$30,000 and between 10 to 20 projects with funding below \$30,000.

DCR is Virginia's lead agency for implementing and coordinating projects to prevent NPS pollution. DCR will only fund projects through this grant program that are not required by state or federal laws or regulations. The contract period for these projects will be Dec 2, 2002 – Nov 28, 2003.

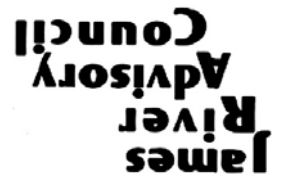
Visit www.dcr.state.va.us for additional information about the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation or contact your local DCR Watershed Field Office for future grant and partnership opportunities.

Misty Morning Magic

The cool air of fall often brings a beautiful layer of mist to the river. The first rays of sunlight burn off the fog in a gently waving blanket that dissolves into slowly twisting columns and pulsing clumps. Using binoculars or a telephoto lens heightens the effect. The rocks below the police overlook at the Pony Pasture Rapids are a good place to watch this as is the Riverside Meadows area. The best time is before the change in Daylight Savings time since dawn arrives at a reasonable time. Be sure to wear a jacket and hat as the cool, moist air is penetrating. And check the weather forecast; some mornings are better than others. Oh, a hot drink is an enjoyable addition.



Phone: 804/748-1567
Chesterfield, VA 23832
P.O. Box 40



Fall River Renaissance by Nancy Drumheller

Fall River Renaissance is a citizen involvement campaign designed to encourage and recognize Virginians of all ages who are working to improve Virginia's waters and other natural resources. Now in its eighth year, *Fall River Renaissance* has encouraged thousands of Virginians to give of their time and resources to improve the quality of Virginia's rivers, lakes, and streams, as well as the Chesapeake Bay. *Fall River Renaissance* is coordinated by the Natural Resource agencies of the Commonwealth, and is supported by corporate and individual contributions.

Get your members or employees involved in volunteer events.

- Plant trees and other vegetation to help prevent soil erosion and create important wildlife habitats
- Organize a river or stream cleanup
- Organize or participate in an educational program about our natural resources
- Pick up litter along a shoreline, trail, park, etc.
- Erect duck boxes

For more information on how to participate in or contribute to Fall River Renaissance call **Bonnie Phillips at 786-5056**. All Fall River Renaissance participants will receive certificates of appreciation signed by the governor and the secretary of natural resources.