



James River Reach

Volume 3, Number 1

Spring 2002

Special points of interest:

- James River Symposium, April 12th, Library of Virginia. Info: 730-2898
- Falls of the James Scenic River designation turns 30 in May!
- Free Fishing Days in Virginia May 31, June 1 & June 2
- James River Cleanup, June 8
- Batteaux Festival in June

Congratulations to Joe Maroon recently appointed Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation!

Inside this issue:

Under Water Grass Nursery Project	2
Book Review	2
April is Operation Spruce Up!	2
River Access Update	3
Parade of Lights	4
Member Focus- James B. Donati Jr.	4
Cruising the Canal Walk	5
Best for the Bay	6
James River Sojourn 2002	7
James River Photo Show	7
JRD Begins in April	8
Fish Ladder Vandals Caught	9
Something's Fishy at Maymont	10

Update: Coastal Birding Trail

By Jeff Trollinger

A great blue Heron searching for his supper, a covey of quail hiding in the undercover – for people who are looking for opportunities to see a wide variety of wildlife, the Virginia Birding Trail will be the place to go. It will provide a high quality recreational experience for all ages. The trail is being developed in three phases; Coastal, Western and Central Piedmont. The first phase will extend along coastal Virginia and the Eastern Shore, taking advantage of our existing highway system. Routes will feature both popular and lesser known locations, including State Parks, wildlife management areas, national wildlife refuges and a variety of privately managed lands. There will be plenty to see. Virginia has one of the highest diversities of birds in eastern United States, with nearly 400 resident and migratory species, plus a large and diverse population of other wildlife.



Barred Owls

these loops based on this information. VDGIF will be contacting owners soon to verify site information before the Trail Map is printed and a big kickoff will take place when the Coastal Trail is opened.

Currently all three phases of the trail are underway. The Coastal phase should be completed in late spring or early summer with maps available and logo signs posted at each site. The final site evaluations have just been completed by Fermata, Inc. a nationally recognized firm specializing in nature-based tourism and travel, and they will be making a few adjustments to some of

The funding application for the central piedmont phase was submitted to the Commonwealth Transportation Board at the end of January. If funded, nominated sites will be evaluated beginning in early 2003. Loops will then be designated and final comments will be reviewed. There

(Birding continued on page 5)

JAMES RIVER REGIONAL CLEANUP 2002

by Mary Kruse



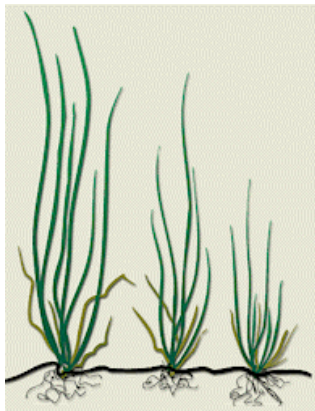
The river level is low this year. That's bad! But it is an opportunity to remove more river and shoreline debris. That's good! The James River Regional Cleanup, on the second Saturday in June, hopes to repeat the successful efforts of the last two years.

The James River Advisory Council invites families, groups and individuals to clean the river, banks, shore and park areas on Saturday, June 8th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Various

(Cleanup continued on page 5)

Under Water Grass Nursery Project

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is embarking on a new project to plant an underwater grass bed along the James River at the historic Shirley Plantation. Through the support of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Community Based Restoration Program, an underwater grass (also referred to as submerged aquatic vegetation or SAV) "nursery" will be established for future community restoration projects. SAV beds are important aquatic habitats - they serve as food and shelter to waterfowl, fish, shellfish, and invertebrates. SAV beds also improve water quality by adding oxygen to the water, reducing shoreline erosion by minimizing wave energy hitting the shoreline, and trapping and filtering sediment from the water column.



This nursery will provide a means for watershed groups to obtain SAV plants for future restoration projects at no cost, in addition to improving local water quality and

(SAV continued on page 4)

Book Review:

Journey on the James: Three Weeks through the Heart of Virginia

by Earl Swift

Reviewer: Ralph Hambrick



Journey on the James is more than just an entertaining "trip report" of 22 days paddling the James River. It is also a story laced with history, humor, and with observations about the current environmental health of the river. In 1998, Earl Swift took on the adventure of traveling the length of the James River, from its source as a trickle in a highland farmer's pasture to its mouth at the Chesapeake Bay. In diary fashion, *Journey* lays out a superbly written account of three weeks and one day on the river.

The trip account itself provides enter-

taining reading, especially for those of us who have thought of paddling the length of the James, but have never gotten around to it - and perhaps never will. Swift's account is especially intriguing since he is a novice paddler. Near misses and rapids run backwards add to the entertainment value of the book. So we are let down when Swift - perhaps wisely - carries around Hollywood Rapid. He misses the opportunity for the

vivid prose that could have resulted from a run through Hollywood - successful or unsuccessful.

The search for campsites, encounters with colorful characters, and other adventures on land also make good reading. While Swift paddles, his supporting crew of one, Ian Martin, follows along in an old Volvo handing off a standard lunch fare of PB&J sandwiches and Gatorade, then finding a campsite for the evening. This is not a Lewis and Clark expedition with river-

(Review continued on page 3)

"Near misses and rapids run backwards..."

April is Operation Spruce Up Month!

By Bonnie Phillips

This annual spring campaign recognizes those volunteers around Virginia who contribute their time and energy to enhance and protect our magnificent natural resources. During Spruce Up month, volunteers are encouraged to work in their own communities, parks or other locations, picking up litter and debris, planting trees, shrubs and flowers, improving wildlife habitats, restoring riparian buffers and more. This is a great opportunity to involve youth groups in a spruce up project that will give them state-wide recognition.

Pick your project and get a registration packet from Bonnie Phillips at bphillips@dcr.state.va.us or call her at (804)786-5056. From outside the Richmond area, call 1 800-933-PARK. All participants in a completed project will receive a certificate of appreciation from Governor Warner.



Fifth-graders from Harrowgate Elementary in Chesterfield County picked up debris along Bermuda Run Creek and planted an eroding bank with native wildflowers as part of Operation Spruce Up 2001

RIVER ACCESS UPDATE

By Greg Velzy

“You can put in, but you can’t take out—the age-old problem facing paddlers in downtown Richmond.”

The Richmond James is renowned as a canoeists’ paradise. The problem is that although several upriver launching sites give access to the river, there has never been a public take-out downstream for the most popular whitewater stretch of the James as it flows through downtown Richmond. In order to leave the river, canoeists have been forced to trespass and be at the mercy of private landowners, first at the Reynolds Company property on 12th Street and now on Mayo’s Island. Will this ever change???

A suitable location has been identified on the north shore of the James River at 14th Street. Members of the pad-



Fisherman at the new take out.

dling community did their research and discovered that this property is owned by the City and is part of the adjacent 2 acre parcel of land that could be used for parking. Norfolk Southern Railroad, which owns the rest of the parcel, at one time gave approval for paddlers to clean the area for use as a take-out.

Unfortunately, the whole story was not relayed to the volunteers working on this project. We have since found out that last August the City deeded its portion (approximately one acre) to Norfolk Southern. The future plans for this site are unknown at this time; however, the paddling community will continue to pursue the idea of a little riverside park that will provide a take-out for this stretch of the James that is so highly touted by the City fathers.

A new take-out option is available to paddlers who don’t have the time or inclination to run the whole downtown stretch. The James River Outdoor Coalition (JROC) recently completed canoe/kayak access steps on the north shore of the James on Tredegar Street near the footbridge to Belle Isle. This location is essentially the halfway point of the downtown stretch. Paddlers will also be able to put in here, paddle over to Belle Isle, port up to the western tip of the island, where there is a place to put their canoes back into the river, run back down, and take out at the access steps.

For more information visit: JROC website, www.jroc.net or Greg Velzy at 748-1124 velzyg@chesterfield.gov

Reach Editors:

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Ooops!

In the last edition of the Reach:

Misspelled names:

Louise Burke
Cindy MacLeod

Additionally, a couple of phone numbers were listed incorrectly. Sorry for an inconvenience!

(Review continued from page 2)

side camping and weeks worth of supplies carried in the canoe. With most of the riverbanks and many islands posted as private property, searching out public campsites may have been wise.

Human impact on the river is documented by glimpses of water that looks like weak coffee and smells like detergent. Even so, nature’s capacity for recovery is seen in vivid descriptions of clear, sparkling water and large schools of fish. Fortunately, Swift finds more clear than murky water.

The heritage of the James is captured in stories of the 1607 settlement of Jamestown, Indian raids, the tribulations encountered in constructing the James River & Kanawha Canal, and more. The sometimes power of the river is dramatically portrayed through the heroic rescue of flood-stranded passengers by a

black boatman in 1854 and the massive destruction caused by the 1969 flood brought on by Hurricane Camille. These historic sketches are woven into the description of the trip as if the paddler is contemplating the events as he passes the locations where they occurred.

Journey on the James is fun and informative for those who do as well as those who do not know the James River. More pictures and a map would enhance the book, as would a lively description of a swim through Hollywood Rapid. But these are minor quibbles with a book to be appreciated by paddlers and nonpaddlers alike.

Journey on the James: Three Weeks through the Heart of Virginia by Earl Swift, 239 pages, \$27.95 (hardback), University Press of Virginia, 2001, www.upress.virginia.edu

PARADE OF LIGHTS – BOATS DECKED OUT!

By Kim Conley

Continuing a beautiful holiday tradition, The Ninth Annual Parade of Lights was held on December 8, 2001. Nineteen boats, resplendently decorated, joined the Parade and an estimated 6,000 delighted viewers watched from five viewing sites. The procession started at the Annabel Lee Dock and ended below Henricus Historic Park, where the judges chose the boats with the most outstanding decorations.

Proudly sponsored by JRAC, the Parade was the work of many members and friends. Honorary grand marshal was Joe Pajic, a member of the planning committee and coordinated the safety component of the Parade. The three judges were Jack Berry, President of the Richmond Metro Convention and Visitors' Bureau; Christina Ferrick, WWBT Channel 12 News reporter; and Robert Eanes, Special Assistant to the Chesterfield County Administrator.

Last year's first place winner and three-year participant, Sunken Treasure, owned by Brian Coddington won first place again. Lauren Leigh, owned by Robert Walker, won second place, and the third place winner was Sea Rover, owned by Paul Sweeny.



JRAC also wishes to thank Mark Clark, who served as the Parade Chairman, Comcast Cablevision for its continued support, the Parade Committee, and each of you who made this event a success!

(SAV continued from page 2)

creating an aquatic ecosystem supportive of fish and other species. The Alliance plans to conduct a series of activities for interested volunteers through the spring and early summer:

➤ *Saturday April 13, 2002*- Training Workshop at VCU's Life Sciences Building, Richmond Virginia.

➤ *Saturday May 11, 2002*- Fence Construction at Shirley Plantation.

➤ *Saturday June 1, 2002*- SAV Planting at Shirley Plantation.

For More Information, or if you are interested in volunteering, please contact:

Stacey Moulds
Citizen Monitoring Program Coordinator
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
moulds.acb@verizon.net
(804) 775-0951

Member Focus...James B. Donati, Jr.

By Jennifer Kraegel

James B. Donati, Jr. has served as the Henrico County representative on the James River Advisory Council (JRAC) since its inception as the James River Task Force in 1993. A Virginia native, he is currently Chairman of the Henrico Board of Supervisors and has proudly represented the Varina Magisterial District since his election in 1991.

As a charter member of JRAC, Mr. Donati feels that one of its greatest accomplishments has been to make more residents of the region aware of the river and the many opportunities to enjoy it.

He is very involved with preserving the beauty and safety of the James, in part because a long stretch of the river flows through the Varina district. He and his wife Bev have spent many days boating on the river and have enjoyed its scenic beauty, often stopping to picnic on its shores.

He has worked diligently with the Henrico Fire and Police departments to ensure that there is adequate policing along the river, and he tries to allocate the resources needed to keep the river clean and safe. In addition to many local, state, and national government committees, Donati currently serves on the Maymont Foundation Board of Directors and the Henricus Foundation Advisory Board. His appreciation of nature and the outdoors extends beyond the river, as he also owns Whiteoak Turf Care and Landscaping.



Cruising on the Canal Walk

By: Jay White

Richmond's Canal Walk enjoyed another exciting year of growth along the James River. From seasonal special events to the dedication of its first mixed use building, the Canal Walk was the place to be in 2001.

In its first full year, the Richmond



At the 14th street turning basin

Civil War Visitor Center (located at the western end of Richmond's Canal Walk) aptly demonstrated that it is THE starting point for Civil War tourism. Nearly 60,000 visitors enjoyed the new facility, which relocated from Chimborazo Park in June of 2000. Along with lectures and book signings, visitors have enjoyed ranger-led walking tours as well as living history programs.

Further along Richmond's Canal Walk, new historical exhibits and buildings are springing up like daisies. In 2001, Richmond Historic Riverfront Foundation dedicated two new exhibits. "Box Brown on the Canal Walk" depicts the journey of a slave who mailed himself to freedom in a wooden crate while

"George Washington's Vision" outlines our first President's plan for a national canal system linking Tidewater Virginia to the west.

In addition to the historical exhibits, the Turning Basin Building was dedicated on Richmond's Canal Walk in December. This \$17 million project, is 90% pre-leased and houses First Market Bank's corporate headquarters and will house Morton's Steakhouse by July.

The question many area residents are posing is, "What's going on with the canal boats?" In October, Richmond Riverfront Corporation took over the canal boat operation, renaming it Richmond Canal Cruises. Canal cruises will be back in action beginning April 7. Due to public demand, charter and dining cruises are available now at any time.

(Canal Walk continued on page 6)

(Birding continued from page 1)

will be a series of public meetings throughout this process to solicit public input. Once completed, the trail will be a statewide project that will benefit all communities in Virginia. Site nominations for the Central piedmont area will be taken through August 2002, so please keep them coming. The work on the western trail is just beginning, though over 300 sites have been recommended from Winchester to the Coal-

fields. More of this phase later.

The Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail is a project that promotes conservation through eco-tourism. The more people value the habitat and wildlife they have, the more they will work to keep it. It is also a project that will bring many new tourists to our state, especially to areas that are struggling economically. Bird watching is the fastest growing recreational activity in the

United States, even more than golf. More than 2,211,000 individuals are spending nearly 700 million annually on wildlife watching recreation in Virginia with the majority actively pursuing or casually observing birds. This is a many sided project that deserves everyone's support. For more information, e-mail jtrollinger@dgif.state.va.us

(Cleanup continued from page 1)

locations along fifty miles of the James River will be set up as staging areas for volunteers wishing to participate. Clean-up sites this year are Robious and Dutch Gap landings in Chesterfield County, the James River Park System-Reedy Creek in the City of Richmond, Osborne landing in Henrico County, Maidens and Cartersville landings in Powhatan County, Lawrence Lewis, Jr. Park in Charles City County, and a new site at Percival's Island in Lynchburg.

Five to six hundred neighbors and friends have helped clean the James River during the last two annual events. Last year over four hundred trash bags of debris, over forty trash bags and twenty barrels of recyclables, and over forty tires were

taken from the river in the one-day effort. For many it becomes a treasure hunt as lawn chairs, car parts, golf balls, road signs, clothing, building materials and fishing gear are removed from the water and banks of the James. For most it is an opportunity to insure the health, beauty and heritage of an environmental, economic and recreational resource.

Pre-registrants will receive lunch and a t-shirt. All participants are encouraged to bring gloves, water, sunscreen and insect repellent. For more information and/or to register, please call 804-717-6688, check out our website www.chesterfield.gov/JamesRiverAdvisoryCouncil or e-mail Kim Conley at conleyk@chesterfield.gov. JRAC looks forward to meeting you and your friends at your favorite riverfront park on Saturday, June 8th.

“Best for the Bay Landscape” Model Program

(Promoting the Bayscapes concept in Chesterfield County)

By Janit Potter

Chesterfield County is a rapidly developing jurisdiction. The goal for the *Riverfront Plan* adopted by the County Board of Supervisors in January 1997 extends far beyond the county’s 124-mile riverfront properties along the Appomattox and James Rivers. The *Riverfront Plan* and the strategic plan adopted by the Friends of Chesterfield’s Riverfront’s Board of Directors both encourage community outreach and education for the citizens of the county.

The Friends of Chesterfield’s Riverfront has been promoting the use of native landscapes and the “Bayscaping” concept initiated by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Likewise the Chesterfield Cooperative Extension promotes a water-wise landscape. The Virginia Department of Forestry recommends that, for urban trees, appropriate species selection and proper planting methods be utilized. The use of these concepts has a significant impact on non-point source run-off and the pollutants entering our waterways flowing to the Chesapeake Bay.

This “Best for the Bay Landscape Model Project” focuses on Chesterfield County. The concept, once tested, could easily be used in any of the Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions.

Working in partnership with the Chesterfield Cooperative Extension and Virginia Department of Forestry, Friends of Chesterfield’s Riverfronts proposes to initiate a program to elevate the attention and recognition of those already using these concepts in their landscape design. This model grant program funded by the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund Advisory Committee provides \$3,700 to enable Friends to work in partnership to:

- Conduct a native landscape seminar on November 12th from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Register by calling 796-6091.
- Beginning in November an informational packet of “Bayscapes” design concepts will be mailed to interested citizens.
- A recognition program for the use of the “Bayscapes” concept for residential citizens, for businesses and industry, and for landscape designers will be piloted in spring 2002. Stay tuned for more information on how to apply for this recognition.

Continuation of the awards program and community seminar will be based on receipt of additional sponsorship. Once the program is established, it is anticipated a community sponsor may be interested in adopting the concept of promoting “Best for the Bay Landscapes.”



2002 James River Advisory Council Meeting Schedule

April 25 - 8:30 a.m.
Maymont Nature Center

July 25 - noon
Henricus Educational Center

October 24 - 8:30 a.m.
Richmond Regional Planning District Commission

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

(Canal Walk continued from page 5)

Those interested in these wonderful riverfront amenities should call (804)649-2800 or www.richmondriverfront.com.

Richmond’s Canal Walk enjoyed another exceptional special event season. Friday Cheers and Wednesday on the Waterfront drew high volumes of traffic. New events such as “Banding Together” and “Adventure Island for Kids” also drew thousands of new visitors. The event season was highlighted by Big Brother/Big Sisters annual Duck Race with the ducks relocating from the James River and racing in the Haxall Canal for the first time!

In all, 2001 was a banner year for Richmond’s Canal Walk. New events, exhibits, and buildings combined to further the Canal Walk’s mission to become a national tourist destination. Richmond Riverfront Corporation and Richmond Historic Riverfront Foundation look forward to the promise of 2002 and welcome any comments and feedback in our quest to thoughtfully develop Richmond’s Riverfront.

Jay White, Richmond Riverfront Corporation; (804) 788-9989
jwhite@richmondriverfront.com

James River Sojourn 2002

Advancing River Restoration and Conservation Through Interactive Education

By Diane Dunaway

The first James River Sojourn will take place June 22-29, 2002. This grand educational event promises to showcase the natural and human significance of this priceless Chesapeake tributary.

Because of the Sojourn, people throughout the region will become more river aware and will better understand their role in environmental stewardship.

A Sojourn is a weeklong canoeing expedition that features educational programming, riverside camping, restoration projects, festive meals, meetings with elected officials, and much more. Participants enjoy a unique on-the-



water experience that builds a strong environmental ethic. Sojourns attract significant media interest – imagine the sight of 100 or more canoeists and kayakers

gracefully moving downriver together. Through the media the Sojourn message of watershed care and awareness is broadcast to a much larger audience. This event is modeled after the highly suc-

cessful Susquehanna River Sojourn (PA) now in its 12th year, and the Patuxent River Sojourn (MD) now in its 2nd year, both coordinated by the Alliance.

It takes significant human and financial resources to guide, feed, and accommodate the Sojourners. Efforts are compounded by numerous logistics – coordinating publicity, arranging guest speakers, scheduling meetings with elected officials, handling registration, and much more. We are in the process of establishing sponsors and partners of the James River Sojourn 2002. We hope this Sojourn becomes a highly anticipated annual event, and that you will join in!

*For more information please contact: Diane D. Dunaway, Program Coordinator
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
(804) 775-0951 ext. 3
ddunaway@acb-online.org
www.AllianceChesBay.org*



Richmond Camera's Annual James River Photo Show

By Mike Ostrander

Last year, on a warm, early May afternoon Richmond middle school children mentored by the Richmond Police Athletic League (RPAL) met at the James River Park's Headquarters for an afternoon of enlightenment through photography. With Ralph White leading the charge, the RPAL kids became one with their cameras and nature. Three weeks later their photos and creative titles graced the walls of the Children's Museum of Richmond (CMOR), creating the 6th annual James River Photo Show.

Ralph White, the James River Park's Naturalist, began the day with a magical speech about the Park, then led a tour of the Reedy Creek natural area. While hiking and rock hopping, Ralph pointed out the wildlife and wild flowers, giving the kids plenty of photographic opportunities. They snapped pictures, laughed and learned during their expedition. One week after their picture taking experience the RPAL kids met again to view and edit their photos. Each child chose his or her favorite two images and titled them. Titles such as "Alligator Rock", "Where God Lives and the Angels Sing" and

"Field of Dreams" are just a few of the wonderful titles. Their photographic talents, enthusiasm and creativity were evident throughout the entire project.

The RPAL kids performed the magic, while the community teamwork created synergy. Combining the two, magic and synergy, is what makes the James River Photo Show special year after year, and everyone gets a chance to reap its rewards. A special thanks goes to the officers of RPAL, whose continued efforts make so much possible for the RPAL kids. And thanks to the following: Richmond Camera for donating the cameras, processing, enlargements and mounting; CMOR for their time and gallery space; the James River Park System and Ralph White, whose magical spark always ignites the imagination. And most of all, thanks to the children of the Richmond Police Athletic League for their unforgettable visions.

2002 Show:

This year's 7th Annual James River Photo Show will be on view at the Children's Museum of Richmond, 2626 W. Broad Street, from June-August, 2002. For more information, contact the Children's Museum of Richmond 474-2667.

James River Days 2002 begins in April

150 recreational, environmental and educational programs offered

Whether you want to learn to kayak, take a tubing tour down the James, go to a waterfront festival or understand the role of African Americans in the river's history – starting in April, James River Days 2002 will offer all that and more.

James River Days, an event series offering recreational, environmental, cultural and educational opportunities *in, on and around the James River*, will run from April 3 through Sept. 28, announced Kimberly Conley, executive director of the James River Advisory Council, the primary sponsor of the event.

"Our goal is to get everyone to have a great river experience," said Conley, who is also a government affairs specialist for Chesterfield County. "We want to encourage people to enjoy and use the James on a regular basis."

James River Days includes such programs as a Children's Pontoon Boat Tour at Dutch Gap Conservation Area, rock climbing at the Manchester Wall, whitewater rafting, bird watching at the Brown and Williamson Conservation Area, river safety workshops, fishing contests, a canal cruise exploring the historic James, Wednesday on the Waterfront and a Boshers' Dam Fish Passage Tour.

"Just about everyone should benefit from James River Days, whether you're young or old, whether

you're a serious nature lover or just a curiosity seeker who wants to try something different," Conley said.

The clean up is a cooperative effort which will take place at Watkins Landing and Maidens Landing, both in Powhatan County, the James River Park System in Richmond, Dutch Gap in Chesterfield County, as well as many other sites. Efforts will involve power boaters, canoeists, kayakers, jon boaters, hikers, waders and sorters of recyclable items.

In addition to the cleanup, James River Days offers water adventure programs such as kayaking, canoeing and tubing. Participants can explore river wildlife with the help of guided nature tours or they may choose from among other guided recreational activities such as fishing, hiking or rock climbing.

James River Days 2002 also offers educational workshops and events where historical interpreters illustrate the river's colonial past and industrial beginnings. Regional authorities will conduct presentations about the river's environmental and economic significance now and in the future, noting how it is a key part of Richmond's recreational and cultural identity. Many activities, events, workshops and sessions are free. Others charge a nominal fee.

For more information contact the James River Days Information Line at 804-717-6724. Or visit www.adventurechallenge.com/james.htm.

DID YOU KNOW...

Conservation is a Virginia Value...And a Constitutional Right.

"To the end that the people have clean air, pure water, and the use and enjoyment for recreation of adequate public land, waters and other natural resources, it shall be the policy of the commonwealth to conserve, develop and utilize its natural resources, its public lands and its historical sites and buildings.

Further, it shall be the Commonwealth's policy to protect its atmosphere, lands and waters from pollution, impairment or destruction for the benefit, enjoyment, and general welfare of the people of the Commonwealth."

Article XI, Virginia Constitution

Fish Ladder Vandals Caught in the Act

By: Sgt. Joe Pajic

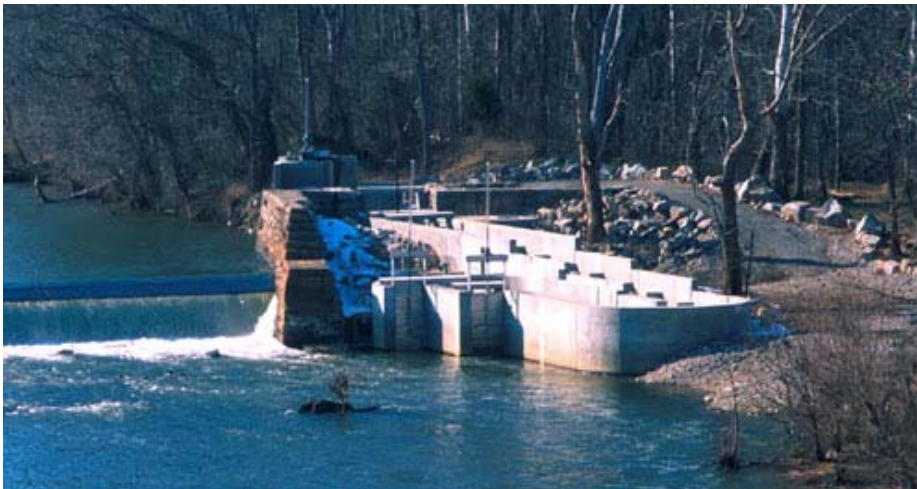
Over the past 35 years, populations of anadromous fish species have steadily declined in Virginia. The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, in collaboration with a number of other partners, has been working to bring back these fish, mostly by restoring access to historic spawning areas throughout coastal Virginia. In 1999, a fishway was constructed at Boshers' Dam, providing fish with access to 137 miles of the James River and 168 miles of its tributaries for the first time in nearly

In 2000 DGIF fish biologists estimate over 112,825 fish moved through its fishway. Things were looking great and the project was a success. Then on May 8, 2001 hundreds of dollars worth of damage was discovered, done by vandals most likely the previous weekend. Game Warden Joe Valasek responded to the crime scene and documented the damage with evidentiary photos, and with the assistance of investigator Atristain from Henrico P.D. was able to lift latent fingerprints. After the inci-

the fish trap, and throwing boulders into the resting pools. With the assistance of Game Wardens Chris Day and Rob Barnes who arrived at the scene by boat, the six males and one female, all 18-20 years of age, were all placed under arrest and transported to the magistrate in a paddy wagon provided by the Henrico Police Department.

After numerous court appearances and continuances the cases were finally heard in Henrico General District Court on November 21, 2001. All seven suspects were found guilty of trespassing, and all but the 19-year-old female were convicted of destruction of property. Unhappy with the judge's decision, five of the seven appealed their convictions to the Circuit Court. On January 17th, 2002 after two days of trials all the defendants were found guilty. Total fines and court cost amounted to \$2635, one of the subjects was also sentenced to 10 days in jail, and all were put on probation for 5 years. They were also ordered to pay \$1800 in restitution and to provide 640 hours of environmental related community service. Dedicated officers working together with citizens willing to get involved to protect our natural resources...another excellent example of public-private partnerships making a difference in our community!

To learn more about the Boshers' Dam Fish Ladder visit: <http://www.dgif.state.va.us/fishing/shad/> on the internet.



200 years. This project was completed as a result of a small but vital 3-agency team. The James River Association, without whose efforts this project would not have been accomplished, spearheaded the fundraising efforts. The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries continued to coordinate the project and obtained (and matched) several federal grants. The City of Richmond--the current owner of the dam--also provided funding and personnel to the initiative. Ultimately, funding for the \$1.5 million fishway was secured through grants, donations, and contributions from federal, state, city, and county agencies; corporations and foundations; and citizens...an excellent example of public-private partnerships!

After a lot of hard work and effort the fishway was built and put into service.

dent, the area Game Wardens placed high priority on patrol of the fish ladder, using their usual community policing methods they asked fishermen and boaters they met in the area to keep an eye out. Their effort paid off in a big way! On May 13 at about 4PM Warden Valasek received a call from his dispatcher advising of a cell phone report by a fisherman on the river reporting several persons on the fish ladder and vandalizing the facility. Valasek arrived a short while later and found 6 individuals on the ladder and one person who had just jumped off into the river and was climbing on the dam. The concerned citizen then ran his boat up on the shore and reported his observations to the Warden. He had been sitting in his boat near the dam, and watched the suspects for some time, trespassing, smoking marijuana, and vandalizing the facility by pulling on

James River Advisory Council

P.O. Box 40
Chesterfield, VA 23832

Phone:804/748-1567

Something's Fishy at Maymont!

By Mark Rich and Jason Young

The Robins Nature and Visitor Center at Maymont contains the largest and most complete collection of James River fish in the world. Over a dozen large fish tanks contain more than 60 species of fish and turtles. With three full time professional aquarists, Maymont offers a unique opportunity for students to learn aquarium science, ichthyology, and ecology with an emphasis on the James River watershed. Thanks to a generous grant from the Virginia Environmental Endowment, Maymont offers three new courses for stu-



dents: Junior Aquarist (for grades 3-5); Senior Aquarist (for grades 6-8) and Advanced Aquarist (for grades 9-12). These opportunities are ideally suited to students who are fish hobbyists, interested in ecology, or considering careers as aquarists. Courses are offered several times per year. Senior and Advanced courses include field trips. All classes include hands-on experience and a special Maymont aquarist t-shirt. For more information and to register a student, call 804/358-7166 extension 342.

James River Advisory Council

VISION:

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

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 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.