



James River Reach

The James River Advisory Council Newsletter

Volume 8 No. 2 Summer 2009



Capt. John Smith navigated through this old river channel on the James River in the early 1600's.

James River Advisory Council

Vision Statement

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

Mission Statement

To promote and protect the James River as one of Central Virginia's greatest assets and one of America's 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.

JRAC's Summer 2009 Calendar of Events

June - October

James River Days events

June 11, 10:00 a.m.

*James River Regional Cleanup Planning Meeting
James River Park Visitor Center*

June 13, 9:00 a.m.

James River Regional Cleanup, Various Locations

June 27, 8:30 p.m.

*Night Walk on the Manchester Slave Trail
Ancarrows Landing*

July 16, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

*Forgotten History Lecture Series
Black History Museum and Cultural Arts Center*

July 23, 11:30 a.m.

JRAC Summer Quarterly Meeting. Location TBA.

August 11, 10:00 a.m.

*Playing on the James. Meet at Henricus Park.
Note: Pre-registration required.
Visit website for James River Days brochure*

August 27, 9:30 a.m.

*James River Parade of Lights Planning Meeting
Chesterfield County - Lane Ramsey Admin. Building*

October 1

James River Parade of Lights Online Registration Opens

October 22, 8:30 a.m.

JRAC Fall Quarterly Meeting. Location TBA.



Phone: (804) 748-1567
www.jamesriveradvisorycouncil.com

10th Annual

James River Regional Cleanup

Cleaning Up The Source

For the 10th consecutive year, the James River Advisory Council will hold its James River Regional Cleanup. Each year, hundreds of volunteers on foot and in boats converge on selected sites for part of a day. They collect hundreds of bags of trash and recyclable materials, as well as larger debris such as tires.

The event's success has grown steadily, as has its educational component. This year's theme, "Cleaning Up the Source," is designed to make people aware of the origin of the different types of trash that end up in the James.

The James River is the centerpiece of one of Virginia's largest watersheds, which includes the many tributary creeks or streams and the land around them. Much of the litter collected was actually discarded at other points within the watershed, such as in roadside ditches that drain to small streams and eventually the James.

The cleanup occurs along more than 70 miles of the river and among many localities. Activities west of Richmond are above the fall line (nontidal) and primarily involve the cleanup of shoreline litter that is accessible by volunteers on foot or those paddling

small craft such as canoes. Activities east of Richmond are below the fall line (tidal) and include both shore-bound volunteers and those in larger boats. In addition to picking up litter, volunteer opportunities at each of the designated sites include assistance with registration, cooking and special projects.

10th Annual James River Regional Cleanup
Saturday, June 13, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. *Cleaning up the source*

2009 Cleanup sites

Appomattox and Buckingham counties James River State Park	Goochland County Westview Landing
Charles City County VCU Rice Center	Henrico County Osborne Park and Boat Landing Horsepen Branch
Chesterfield County Dutch Gap Boat Landing Falling Creek Ironworks Robious Landing Park	Powhatan County Maidens Landing
City of Richmond Reedy Creek Pony Pasture Rapids	

To register, visit jamesriveradvisorycouncil.com or call (804) 717-6688.
Boaters are encouraged to participate.

JRAC
James River Advisory Council

Events through
October 2009

James River Days 2009

The James River Days 2009 brochure is available online and in the community.
It's full of events and activities on and about the James River.

EDUCATION - ENVIRONMENT - HISTORY - RECREATION - SOCIAL

A Couple of Questions

Do you know the answers to these questions?

What are the 4 major forms of non-point source pollution.?

A _____ is a species in a community that many other species depend on for survival.

List one example of a pollution sensitive macroinvertebrate.

Identify the four elements of habitat.

Willow oak grows well in both saturated and dry compact urban soils. Are these environments typically aerobic or anaerobic?

These and other questions were recently addressed by teams of environmentally-minded high-schoolers in an Envirothon competition. Envirothon is a nationally recognized natural resources competition for high school students. Students work in teams of five and are tested on their knowledge of aquatics, soils, forestry, wildlife, and a current environmental problem. Winners of local events advance to area and state competitions. The state winner represents Virginia in the National Envirothon.

Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District hosted the Area 3 Competition on April 30 at Dorey Park. Competing teams included Henrico High School (representing Henricopolis SWCD), Jamestown High School, (representing Colonial SWCD), Prince George High School (representing James River SWCD), and King George 4-H (representing Tri-County/City SWCD).

Barbara McGarry

Henricopolis Soil & Water Conservation District

Jamestown High School and King George 4-H placed 1st and 2nd consecutively in the competition and represented SWCD Area 3 in the state competition held on May 17-18 at Airfield 4-H Center in Wakefield, VA. At the competition, Ft. Defiance HS, from Headwaters SWCD won the state competition. This is the second consecutive state win for Ft. Defiance and trip to to the Canon Envirothon. Canon Envirothon is North America's largest high school environmental education competition and winning teams are eligible for more than \$100,000 in scholarships and prizes.

If you would like more information on starting an Envirothon team at your high school through 4-H, FFA, Ecology Club or home school group, contact your local soil and water conservation district or the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts at (804) 559-0324 or <http://www.vaswcd.org/envirothon.htm>



Students compete in an Envirothon competition

Member Focus ...

William C. "Bill" Poole

A Man of Many Hats While at the Helm of the River

by George Bruner, JRAC Member

To put it mildly, Bill Poole loves the James River. He has been an advocate for the James all his life. For over 55 years Bill has been active in the environmental, development, preservation, and public awareness of the upper James River. He is well known for his many accomplishments on behalf of and for the benefit of the river.

Some highlights of his accomplishments include: support of Ancarrow's 1950's environmental efforts; development of recreational boating at Richmond Docks; rebuilding the Great Ship Locks; coordinating bringing tall ships to Richmond; leadership in boat activities for the annual James River regional river cleanup; being a co-founder and active participant of the James River Parade of Lights and Past Commodore and active member of Richmond Yacht Club.

Bill has been a member of JRAC since its inception. He makes sure that JRAC continues to embrace the historical value and importance of the river. He continues to seek support from community representatives and residents to enhance the beauty and use of the James River. JRAC appreciates the continued support and dedication that Bill gives to the organization.

Bill has taken advantage of many of the opportunities the James River offers its citizens. He had boats in the



The Katie



Bill Poole, at Great Shiplock Park, standing about 100 feet from where he used to keep a boat, in the Kanawha canal, for five cents a day.

Kanawha Canal, on the banks of Chapel Island, and at river marinas. He would assist the Harbor Master in operating the Canal locks. In the 1950's Bill took his boat down to the lower James to harvest oysters and crabs. In between his shifts while with the Richmond Fire Department he operated the boat repair railway at Richmond Yacht Basin. He is recognized as one of the best Shipwrights on the upper James River, and is still sought after for repair advice on classic wooden boats. Bill has conducted James River surveys for NOAA to update navigation charts. From the late 1950's to 2000 Bill owned, maintained and operated the 48 ft. classic Motor Vessel *Katie* out of Richmond. The *Katie* was built in 1914 and has a history as a commissioned Navy vessel, marine police patrol boat, and his proud yacht. It is now owned by Bill Patterson and continues to operate on the James. If you want to know anything about the James River including its history, ask Bill Poole.



Bill at the helm of the Katie.

BALD EAGLE

By Mark Rich, Zoologist

Perhaps no other animal personifies the James River more than the Bald Eagle. It was chosen 20 June 1782 as our country's national emblem because of its longevity, strength and noble appearance. Until 1995 the bald eagle was listed an endangered species in most of the lower 48 states (it was never listed as endangered or threatened in Alaska because there the populations were thriving). In 1995 the populations in the lower states improved so much that the bald eagle was relisted as just threatened and in 2007 it was removed from listing entirely. However, it is still protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

Here are some interesting bald eagle natural history facts: The wingspan ranges from 72-90". Adults weigh 10-14 lbs (females being slightly larger than the males). Longevity in the wild is up to 30 years. They are renowned for excellent eyesight (8-10 times better than ours). They are sexually mature at 4-6 years, are monogamous and mate for life, and if a mate is lost, a new pair bond is formed. A female lays a single clutch of 1-3 eggs. Incubation is 34-38 days. Eagle pairs in Virginia can lay eggs from early January but usually February-March. The young remain in the nest until mid-June. Bald eagle nests are called eyries and can be 10' wide and weigh as much as a ton.



Mature Bald Eagle

Bald eagles are diurnal, fly up to 10,000 feet high. In level flight they reach speeds of 30-35 mpg and much faster when diving for prey. They sometimes attack osprey and steal their fish. Eggs and young are preyed upon by raccoons, great-horned owls, and bobcats. Although they are mainly fish-eaters, they are opportunistic and will take mammals, birds, reptiles and even carrion.

We are very fortunate to have these majestic birds along our river and to see their populations healthy and expanding.

RECORD BREAKING FRIDAY CHEERS

Zac Brown Band Breaks All Friday Cheers Records

On Friday, May 22 the Zac Brown Band arrived on Brown's Island never anticipating the largest crowd ever to show up just to see ZBB! A record breaking 16,000 people consumed a record breaking quantity of beverages and donated a record breaking amount of money to the "Keep the Music Free" fund, making the night a very special one in this 25th Anniversary year for Friday Cheers.



Green Infrastructure Planning Tools for Connected Communities

The Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (RRPDC) and the Crater Planning District Commission (CPDC) have initiated an exciting green infrastructure planning project. The green infrastructure concept originated over a century ago with the efforts of landscape architects, wildlife biologists, and ecologists.

These early proponents espoused the importance of an organized conservation system for the health and well-being of both humans and wildlife. Generally, green infrastructure is a strategically managed network of natural lands, working lands and other natural spaces, that provide numerous benefits – ecological and economic - to human and wildlife populations.

More specifically, green infrastructure promotes habitat preservation and diversity, water filtration and storage, and improved air quality. The two PDCs joined with the Green Infrastructure Center (GIC), the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program, and the Capital Region Land Conservancy for Phase I of a regional green infrastructure planning project entitled Green Infrastructure Planning Tools for Connected Communities.

Phase I has centered on an update to DCR's Virginia Conservation Lands Needs Assessment (VCLNA) natural landscape assessment data

model. The landscape assessment model uses geospatial analysis to identify, prioritize, and link patches of natural land. PDC staff, in conjunction with GIC staff and DCR staff, developed a model update methodology; this model update can be used by other PDCs or local governments to update VCLNA data. The update takes the original data model that was current as of year 2000 and updates it to be current as of year 2007. The culmination of Phase I, ending in Fall 2009, will be a green infrastructure map for the entire Richmond-Crater region, showing numerous layers of environmental, cultural and recreational data.

Phase II of this project is in the planning stages and will use a two-pronged approach. The first prong focuses on rural counties. PDC staff will work with localities to develop green infrastructure implementation strategies through comprehensive plans and/or ordinances. The second prong focuses on urbanized localities, with RRPDC staff working with the City of Richmond to create a green infrastructure map for the City. Separate processes are necessary because Phase I standards are more appropriate for a regional scale, unavoidably favoring rural areas. The process used to create the green infrastructure map for the City of Richmond will be a model for other urbanized areas in central Virginia.

For more information, please visit the RRPDC's website at www.richmondregional.org.

Contact: **Sarah Smith, Senior Planner**, Richmond Regional Planning District Commission
www.richmondregional.org ssmith@richmondregional.org (804)323-2033

Pick 5 for the Environment

Want to do more to protect the environment?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is sponsoring a website to help you.

Visit the website sponsored by the US Environmental Protection Agency and pick five actions you will commit to.

www.epa.gov/pick5 <<http://www.epa.gov/pick5>>

Little Sprouts Garden Program

By George J. Bolos
Market Manager

Department of Economic Development

The 17th Street Farmers' Market with the help and support of Venture Richmond and a team of hard working volunteers has constructed the Shockoe Garden with an emphasis of our "Little Sprouts" Children's Gardens section adjacent to the market office at 100 N. 17th Street. The Garden consists of 24 (4'x8') raised garden containers constructed for the use of growing vegetables raised by the community and our restaurant partners. Sponsorship opportunities are available on our fence.



The garden is designed to teach children about our eco-system and how agriculture is an important part of its sustainability. It will stress the importance of hard work and patience in an impatient world and will learn that their food is not simply grown at the grocery store, but cared for by people. We will use the Little Sprouts gardens as a demonstration site for City of Richmond HUD managers who service lower to middle income residence as an example to what can be done in small urban settings, in and around their common areas. In the future, similar gardens can help people to supplement their grocery requirements while provide them with pride, beauty and hope in a sometimes hopeless situation.

We have created a destination spot for all people to come and visit in the Shockoe Bottom Business District and serve as goodwill and beautification project to the neighborhood through a community outreach program. We will teach conservation techniques and its importance through the utilization of our high-speed composter's and rain-barrel; supply the garden with organic nutrients and recaptured rain water. This year, most of some of the vegetables will be donated to the Central Richmond Food Bank which has sent out the call for needed fresh vegetables for an overwhelming number of people in the greater Richmond area.

Environmental Pictures Needed

JRAC is in need of a variety of environmental pictures for publications, newsletter, posters, website, etc. Please share some with us that you have in your photo files.



Send pictures to:

Kim Conley at

conleyK@chesterfield.gov



Anne Wright receives 2009 Thomas Jefferson Medal

Anne Wright, Professor, VCU Department of Biology and Coordinator, VCU Life Sciences Outreach Education has received the 2009 Thomas Jefferson Medal for Outstanding Contributions for Natural Science Education from the Virginia Museum of Natural History Foundation.

The medal is a statewide award given to a Virginia educator who has made significant contributions to natural history, environmental science or science education at any academic level. It captures the spirit of our nation's third president, an early student of natural science and natural science education. It is given to individuals who have consistently made outstanding contributions to natural history, environmental and science education in either the formal or nonformal sectors, exemplify the best educational practices and stand as models worthy of emulation by others.

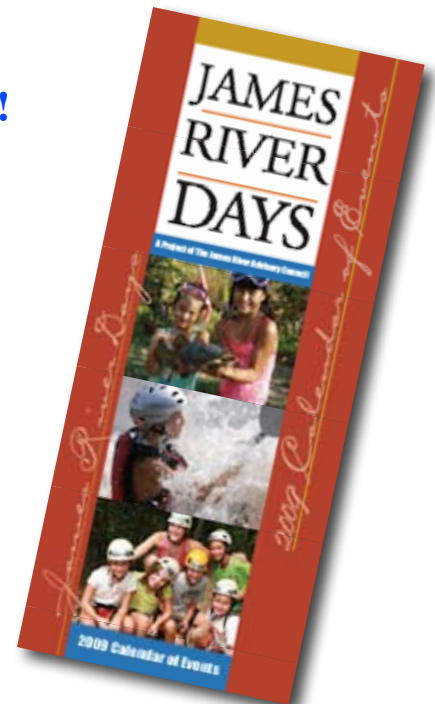
Congratulations Anne!!

Plan to attend James River Days events, programs It's Your River. Enjoy it. Care for it!

**Looking for something fun or educational?
James River Days 2009 brochures are available now!**

This colorful, calendar brochure has information about a wide variety of programs, from educational to recreational to social, and from environmental to historical, all of which are focused on the James River. These diverse programs are offered for seven months, April-October. There are more than 200 places throughout the greater Richmond area to obtain James River Days brochures including libraries, retail stores, government centers, hotels and hospitality centers, environmental organizations and the like, or visit www.jamesriveradvisorycouncil.com.

Be sure to get your copy soon!



Underwater Grasses Planting on the James

Jess Barton, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Photos by Chuck Epes, CBF



Planting the James River, Spring 2009

Dozens of citizen volunteers for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) planted native underwater grasses in the James River at Westover Plantation in Charles City County and James River National Wildlife Refuge in Prince George County this May. The families and individual citizens had been growing the grasses in their homes since February as part of CBF's volunteer "Grasses for the Masses" restoration project. To complete the program volunteers met CBF staff at designated planting sites with their grasses to plant them in the shallows of the James River.

Underwater grasses are vital to the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers. Underwater grasses provide oxygen to the water, trap sediment, reduce erosion, and provide food and shelter for fish, shellfish, crabs, and waterfowl. Unfortunately, less than 20 percent of the Bay's original approximately 400,000 acres of underwater grasses remains, largely because of degraded water quality from pollution. Restoration of this vital resource is critical to saving the Bay. Citizens are playing a direct role by helping grow underwater grasses and replanting them in appropriate areas of the Bay watershed.

For more on CBF's
Grasses for the Masses
program please visit
www.cbf.org/grasses

Contact: Jess Barton
VA Grassroots Coordinator
Jbarton@cbf.org
804-780-1392
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Volunteers planting underwater grasses

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Preserving the James River

The James River Advisory Council (formerly the James River Task Force) serves as a forum for the diverse interests along the James River in Central Virginia and communicates with public officials regarding issues and challenges facing the river and its resources. The advisory council's vision is to unite the community by supporting and promoting the James River as a common resource and preserving its health.

In March 1993, a resolution was adopted at the first Regional Summit by area localities, to create the James River Task Force to study the development of the James River as a regional tourist attraction. In May 1999, the Task Force transitioned to the James River Advisory Council.

The Advisory Council's vision is to unite the community by supporting and promoting the James River as a common resource and preserving its health, beauty, heritage, economic vitality and recreational value.

JRAC has a membership of more than sixty members, with representatives from eight local jurisdictions, including the counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent and Powhatan, and the city of Richmond, local businesses and industries, civic organizations and citizens. JRAC leads regional river groups and sets the tone for positive and interactive relationships among various organizations.

JRAC sponsors the James River Parade of Lights in December, James River Days during the summer, and the James River Regional Cleanup in June. The co-chairs of the Council are Jim Donati of the Henrico County Board of Supervisors, Varina District, and Ralph Hambrick of Falls of the James Scenic River Advisory Council and the Southampton Citizens Association.