

Friends of the Powhatan Creek Watershed



December 2003

Volume 5 Issue 2

James Riverkeeper to Address Fifth Annual Meeting

We are honored to have Chuck Frederickson, the new James Riverkeeper for the James River Association (JRA), as our guest speaker at our Fifth Annual Meeting. Launched in May 2001, the James Riverkeeper Program promotes "advocacy, education, research, communication, monitoring, and if necessary, legal actions to protect and preserve the natural and historic resources of the James River Watershed."

Begun in the 1980's with Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s Hudson Riverkeeper organization, the Riverkeeper movement has grown into a nationwide "neighborhood watch" program. The Riverkeeper philosophy is based "on the notion that the protection and enjoyment of a community's natural resources require the daily vigilance of its citizens." The Riverkeeper is a full-time, on-the-water advocate dedicated to the pollution prevention and control, erosion and sediment control, habitat improvement, water quality monitoring, and public awareness.

Mr. Frederickson's experience includes 19 years with the Department of the Army, 10 years with Hopewell Public Schools. He is a Coast Guard licensed Captain, registered commercial fisherman, and has run fishing and guiding operations on the Chesapeake Bay and James River.

The Friends enjoy a long-standing relationship with the JRA having spent almost 2 years supporting their efforts on development of the Powhatan Creek Watershed Management Plan. The James Riverkeeper Program, will allow the Friends and the JRA to continue our collaboration with a renewed sense of stewardship and appreciation for our waterways.

The Fifth Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2004 at 7 PM at the Dominion Virginia Power activities building at 4037 Ironbound Road in the rear of the parking lot, adjacent to the Stadium Oil parking lot (NOT the fenced lot behind the Resources building).

Underwater Grasses Restoration Continues

Thanks to the success of last years restoration effort the Friends will continue doing our part to help restore underwater grasses to the Creek.

Jill Bieri, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Underwater Grass Scientist, identified a number of potential sites for grasses restoration in the creek, and funds from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation were used to purchase equipment for the project. Debbie Green is the local organizer. Twenty-five individuals, school groups, and/or businesses are needed to participate in a workshop

the evening of Monday, April 5th, to pick up equipment and receive training on how to grow the grasses in large tubs until they can be planted out in June.

This project is an excellent opportunity to do something "hands-on" for the Creek. The growing plants will provide a fascinating educational experience for all those who see them. If you are interested in being part of this exciting effort, please attend the annual meeting or call or email Debbie Green at 565-0232, dxgree@wm.edu.

*Come celebrate our Fifth Annual Meeting with the James Riverkeeper!
Meet with new and old Friends, and elect our officers for 2004 for 2004 on January
21st at 7 pm at Dominion Virginia Power Activities Building, 4037 Ironbound Road.*

Annual Report 2003

This fifth Annual Report reflects the tireless efforts of a small, albeit extraordinary, group of people in our community. A summary of our major accomplishments.

New in 2003

- Underwater Grasses Restoration Program
In June a large group joined in planting established wild celery plants that Friends grew throughout the spring. Our second Restoration Workshop in partnership with Chesapeake Bay Foundation is scheduled for April 2003 (see p. 1)
- Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance Revisions Committee- Chaired by members of the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Board (CBLAD), the Friends worked with county staff to revise and update County Ordinance provisions.
- Special Stormwater Criteria Task Group
Coordinated by the JCC Environmental Division, the Friends, along with other stakeholders, began work on revising stormwater management tools for the County.
- Historic Triangle Corridor Enhancement
This committee is developing a model of enhancement for the Jamestown Road and other Community Character Entrance Corridors in preparation for "Jamestown 2007."
- 2003 JCC Comprehensive Plan
From January through May members wrote revisions and attended Steering Committee meetings for the Environment, Land Use, and other sections of the Comprehensive Plan.

Ongoing

- Educational Outreach
Volunteers worked with William and Mary students in the Department of Environmental Sociology, students from Lafayette High School's Women's Softball Team during Operation Spruce-up (the annual state-wide litter effort), and members of the Ford's Colony Trailblazers Club centered around the Friends Citizen Water Quality Monitoring Program.
- Water Quality Monitoring
Boots Johnson continued coordinating monthly water testing at 5 sites along the creek. New research and development of a macroinvertebrate sampling protocol is continuing with Stacy Brown, Isaac Walton League staff scientist, and WJCC high school teachers, Hugh Beard and Charles DuBay.
- Land-use Monitoring
With constant vigilance, members continuously weighed in at Planning Commission and Board of Supervisor meetings where land use decisions considered by either body impacted the creek and watershed.

Space limitations prohibit mentioning all the work done by volunteers this year. However, we offer our sincerest thanks to all for their continuous inspiration and steadfast commitment to the waterways that connect our citizens and our communities to one another.

Proposed Budget for 2004

	<u>Projected Income</u>
\$1000	Contributions
\$1500	Membership Dues
\$2500	Total

	<u>Projected Expenses</u>
\$200	Conference Fees
\$200	Copying Costs
\$500	Education
\$865	Water Quality Monitoring
\$400	Newsletter
\$280	Office/Printing
\$50	Virginia Conservation Network
\$25	Virginia State Treasurer
\$2520	Total

Projected Deficit = \$2520 (Projected Expenses) - \$2500 (Projected Income) = \$20

Meet the 2004 Candidates

This year's Nominating Committee has compiled the strongest list of board candidates in the history of the Friends of the Powhatan Creek Watershed. It is with utmost pride that we introduce them:

David Fuss: President: Our current vice-president, David has given countless hours spearheading efforts on the Comp Plan, Chesapeake Bay Ordinance revisions, the Powhatan Creek Canoe Access Park, county partnerships, and development proposals. He and his family returned to Williamsburg, two years ago. David is Watershed Planner for the Dragon Run at the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from the University of Virginia and a Masters of Science in Marine Resource Management from Oregon State University.

John Schmerfeld: Vice-President John "found" the Friends at last year's annual meeting and has spent many hours since then helping us understand state and federal policies, serving on the Special Stormwater Criteria Task Group, and advising us on any number of issues. John has worked as a biologist for over 15 years in a variety of settings including adjunct biology professor, coral reef researcher in the Bahamas, toxic tort litigation consultant in Texas, and conservation biologist in the Pacific Islands. He is also a veteran of the Air Force where he worked in Near East military intelligence. Currently, John is a biologist for U.S. Fish and Wildlife in Gloucester. He

studies the effects of contaminants and habitat loss on Virginia wildlife and works to restore lost resources around the Commonwealth. He and his family moved from Hawaii to Williamsburg three years ago.

John Hughes: Treasurer John has been active with the Friends since its very beginning unselfishly offering time as board member, water tester, policy guru, mediator, and other roles too numerous to mention. As a 13-year veteran of the JCC Wetlands Boards and as a long-time resident on the creek, there is no one who brings more local understanding and experience than John.

Fran Geissler: At large Fran is a long-time member and supporter of the Friends. She has 25 years experience working on issues of water pollution caused by land use and development. Currently employed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) in Richmond, Fran works with the erosion, sediment control, and stormwater management programs. She has lived in First Colony with her family since 1991.

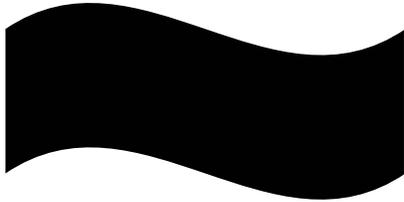
As you can see, our new board will be comprised of experts in many environmental areas who have chosen to demonstrate their civic responsibility by volunteering their expertise and time to preserve our watershed. Won't you join in our efforts? Come and meet these wonderful people at our Annual Meeting on January 21. Together, WE CAN DO MORE IN 2004!

We CAN do MORE in 2004!

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Friends of Powhatan Creek Watershed P.O. Box 5112, Williamsburg, VA 23188 Annual Dues: <u>\$10.00 PER PERSON</u>			
<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Renew	<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Renew
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Address		Address	
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Tel		Tel	
Email		Email	
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P.O. Box 5112
Williamsburg, VA 23188



Things to do for Powhatan Creek Watershed!

- ~ Attend the Annual Meeting, **Wednesday, January 21st**, 7 pm.
Dominion Virginia Power Activities Building, 4037 Ironbound Road.
- ~ Register for the Underwater Grasses Restoration Workshop. (See page 1)
Monday, April 5th. Get your equipment and grass-growing instructions.
- ~ Be a **Friends Volunteer!** Help with grant writing, membership, newsletters, events, or stakeholder committees. (See page 3)
- ~ Renew your membership for 2004. Mail coupon on p. 3.
- ~ Give a Gift Membership to the Friends of Powhatan Creek Watershed to a friend, relative, or neighbor. Support our 2004 Membership Drive.

We CAN do MORE IN 2004!

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