

Friends of the Powhatan Creek Watershed



Adventures on the Dragon!

January 2005

Volume 6 Issue 1

It will be a real treat to have Teta Kain, paddlemaster and immediate past president of Friends of Dragon Run, as our guest speaker at our Sixth Annual Meeting on February 10th at 7:00 PM at the Dominion Virginia Power activities building in Williamsburg.

Her slide presentation, *Adventures on the Dragon*, is a spectacular account of the interesting plants and animals that are found along the river called Dragon Run. The waterway forms the boundary line of four counties on the Middle Peninsula and is lined with cypress swamps and expanses of wooded land along most of its 35-mile length. Teta will talk about the challenges facing this unique waterway and the efforts of Friends of Dragon Run to preserve it. The program provides an opportunity to see one of the most unique rivers in all of eastern Virginia and to better understand why it is important to save this pristine wilderness. You might especially enjoy the account of Teta's adventures while photographing on the river at night in her kayak and her eyeball-to-eyeball shots of frogs, toads, and spiders in lamplight!

Teta leads canoe/kayak trips down the river for various groups. For the past several years, she has been conducting flora and fauna surveys on an island in the river which the Friends own. Much of the slide show is based on those studies and the paddle trips.

Active on the Virginia nature-watching scene since 1978, Teta and her husband moved from Hampton to Gloucester County in 1986, where they still reside. She is an avid bird watcher and is the current president of the Virginia Society of Ornithology. She has also served on the board of directors for the Butterfly Society of Virginia and she recently concluded a 6-year term on Gloucester County's Wetlands Board. Along with actively pursuing nature studies, Teta has been photographing all types of wildlife for over 20 years. Wow!

The Sixth Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 10, 2005 at 7:00 PM at the Dominion Virginia Power activities building at 4037 Ironbound Road in the rear of the parking lot (NOT the fenced lot behind the main building). ◇

Friends' Annual Report for 2004

This is 6th Annual Report of the Friends of the Powhatan Creek Watershed! We have become a strong voice for the Creek that is recognized by the community at large. Let's review our progress in 2004!

Water Quality Monitoring

Boots Johnson continues to coordinate monthly water testing at 5 sites. She and Mark McElroy streamlined the lab analysis processes. Boots helped Virginia Save Our Streams to develop a

macroinvertebrate sampling protocol for Eastern Virginia and we hope to try it in the future.

Underwater Grasses Restoration

Debbie Green coordinated the second successful underwater grasses restoration project with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Following 60% grass survival in 2003, CBF again agreed to provide wild celery seed to 25 families and groups who grew and planted them in the Creek!

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**Meet new and old Friends at our Annual Meeting on February 10th at 7:00 PM
at the Dominion Virginia Power activities building located at 4037 Ironbound Road.**

Friends' Annual Report for 2004 (cont.)

Special Stormwater Criteria

Vice President John Schmerfeld (and others) tirelessly represented the Friends for a year and a half on the stakeholder committee to develop Special Stormwater Criteria as recommended in the Powhatan Creek watershed management plan. The Board of Supervisors adopted these new measures in December '04! Kudos to County officials and staff for their commitment to watershed protection!

Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance

President David Fuss advocated for the Friends' interests in revisions to the County's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance. Significant changes have resulted in increased protection for streams and wetlands throughout the County. It is estimated that about 30% more streams will receive protection with the new revisions!

Historic Triangle Corridor Enhancement Committee

Board member Joanne Limric has a seat on this Committee charged with improving the appearance of main travel corridors for the 2007 Jamestown Celebration. The Committee is using Jamestown Road as a pilot project. The Friends donated \$100 to the cause.

Better Site Design Roundtable

Several Friends participated in a truly unique project called Builders for the Bay sponsored by James City County, Peninsula Housing and Builders Association, and Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Over eleven months, conservationists, developers, consultants, and county officials and staff explored ways to eliminate impediments and improve the chances for implementing environmentally-friendly development practices to help water quality in the Bay and its tributaries. If the recommendations in the final consensus document are implemented, there will be benefits for wildlife and water quality in watersheds throughout the County. Stay tuned!

Five Forks Study Area Committee

President David Fuss served on this community planning committee recommended in the 2003 Comprehensive Plan. The result was the Five Forks Primary Principles that serve as the community's vision for the area. The special measures that guide development were adopted by the Board of Supervisors in September '04.

Web Site

The College of William and Mary's Keck Environmental Laboratory will soon be hosting the new and improved Friends' web site. Dr. Randy Chambers and Timothy Russell were awarded a grant from the Virginia Environmental Endowment that allows them to assist local conservation organizations. Mr. Russell will design and maintain the web site with input from the Friends' Board of Directors. Look for it soon!

Electronic Newsletter

The Friends have begun publishing an electronic newsletter to provide interim updates between paper newsletters and for time-sensitive items and announcements. If you are "wired" and wish to receive the Friends e-newsletter, please send an e-mail to David Fuss at karendave@widomaker.com. Your e-mail address will remain confidential and will not be shared with anyone else.

Governor's Grove - Five Forks

Dating back to 2003, Friends members met twice with developer National Housing to discuss their affordable housing proposal at Five Forks called Governor's Grove. The Friends offered suggestions about stormwater runoff, drought-tolerant landscaping, and buffers along Powhatan Creek and Historic Route 5. Unfortunately, these items were poorly addressed and, along with a substantial outpouring of community opposition, the Friends stood against the proposal as the Board of Supervisors denied it in December '04.

Villas at Jamestown - Five Forks

In the fall of 2004, Friends members met with the owner/developer of a proposed age-restricted housing project at Five Forks called Villas at Jamestown. The Friends appreciated the opportunity to provide input during the planning phases and were favorably impressed by the developer's proactive approach to environmentally-friendly design features. The developer will seek approval in early 2005 and, in contrast to the proposed Governor's Grove project, the proposal could serve as a model for low impact design development in the Powhatan Creek watershed.

Proposed 2005 Budget		
	<u>2004 Actual</u>	<u>2005 Projected</u>
Income		
Contributions	\$ 440.00	\$ 500.00
<u>Membership Dues</u>	<u>\$ 510.00</u>	<u>\$ 900.00</u>
Total	\$ 950.00	\$1400.00
Expenses		
Virginia State Treasurer	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Virginia Conservation Network - 2005 dues	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Water Monitoring	\$ 865.00	\$ 865.00
Newsletter	\$ 0.00	\$ 200.00
Office/Printing/Copying	\$ 0.00	\$ 200.00
U.S. Postal Service - box rental	\$ 38.00	\$ 38.00
<u>Other - Historic Corridor Enhancement</u>	<u>\$ 100.00</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Total	\$1078.00	\$1378.00
Change	\$-128.00	\$ 22.00

Nominating Committee Report

The 2004 Nominating Committee offers a strong slate of candidates for the Board of Directors:

Officers

- President - David Fuss
- Vice-President - John Schmerfeld
- Treasurer - John Hughes
- Secretary - Ann Hewitt

Board

Matthew Kleiman - At large

Matt moved to Williamsburg five years ago and now lives on Powhatan Creek. He fosters a devotion to waterways and the environment that

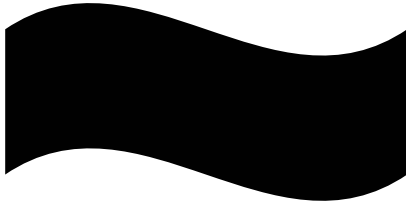
began at his childhood home of Cornwall in Hudson, New York - also the birthplace of environmental law (Scenic Hudson Preservation Conference v. Federal Power Commission (1965)). Many evenings were spent sailing on the Hudson River with Pete Seeger and other local activists. Currently, when not admiring the beauty of Powhatan Creek from his window or riding his bicycle, he is employed as a Research Associate at the National Center for State Courts. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science (degree in Public Policy) from Michigan State University.

Join us in 2005! Don't Forget to Renew!

Tel: 757-564-9629	Friends of Powhatan Creek Watershed P.O. Box 5112, Williamsburg, VA 23188	Email: karendave@widomaker.com
Annual Membership: \$10 Individual; \$20 Family; \$100 Neighborhood		
<input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member		
Name		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Tel	Email	
Yes, I want to volunteer! Contact me about: <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising <input type="checkbox"/> Water Testing <input type="checkbox"/> Creek Watcher <input type="checkbox"/> PR		
My membership fee is enclosed: <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Individual <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Family <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Neighborhood		
I've also enclosed an additional donation: <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____		



P.O. Box 5112
Williamsburg, VA 23188



Things to do for Powhatan Creek Watershed!

- ~ Attend the Annual Meeting on Thursday, February 10th at 7:00 PM at the Dominion Virginia Power activities building, 4037 Ironbound Road.
- ~ Get involved! Hands-on opportunities abound! Contact us to help.
- ~ Conserve water, reduce fertilizer and pesticide use, compost leaves and grass clippings, and control erosion on your property.
- ~ Install a rain barrel or build a rain garden to reduce stormwater runoff.
- ~ Renew your membership for 2005: Clip and mail the form on page 3 with your tax-deductible check to FOPCW, Box 5112, Williamsburg, VA 23188.

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