

Powhatan Creek Currents

Friends of Powhatan Creek Watershed Newsletter; October 2006

2006 Accomplishments

This has been a year of changes and challenges. Below is a brief summary of the work of a handful of dedicated people. We thank them sincerely and hope that more members will join our work. Admittedly, working on policy reformation, ordinance writing, and monitoring developments in the watershed is tedious, exhausting work. It's certainly not as much fun as running canoe trips down creek, for example. However, if you have a grasp on local policy and want to help, we need volunteers to attend County committee meetings of all kinds and help with letter writing and telephone outreach. Call 757-229-5637 for more information.

1) Protected sensitive creek shoreline along Jamestown Road: Our year-long effort against Jamestown Retreat which included plans to destroy conservation area paid off in the unanimous denial of that application. For the first time the Board of Supervisors said that dedicated conservation area could not be included in the total area used to determine density. Although it is too late to lower densities for many areas like Landfall and The SeWement at Powhatan Creek, there is still much sensitive land close to the creek that will be less impacted because of this decision. This decision will help maintain water quality in the creek. We are grateful to the Board for their actions.

2) Saturday on the Creek Membership Drive: We held a wonderful day with music, food, and canoe rides on the creek. Thanks to all who made this first membership drive a success. Put this celebration on your calendar for next year.

3) Continuous SUPDORT to Strengthen the Powhatan Creek Management Plan: Board members have attended BOS work sessions and have worked with staff to support the inclusion of three priorities which were deferred in 2002 when the original plan was adopted. Our goals are to make the plan a formal policy and to include language that protects intermittent streams, increases RPA, and limits impervious cover in all watersheds. Please attend the Board of Supervisors meeting on October 10th and show your support for these measures. Even if you don't speak, your presence will speak for itself.

4) Continue Water Quality Testing at Four Creek Sites: Our monthly water testing continues at three tidal and one non-tidal site along Powhatan Creek. Significant increases in phosphorus have been noted as well as increases in turbidity (decreases in water clarity due to suspended matter). Randy Chambers of William and Mary completed E-coli testing for us this summer. We are happy to report that e-coli levels fell within the "safe" range for swimming and fishing.

5) Participation on the Better Site Design Committee: The Friends have been invited to sit on the BSD Committee which meets twice a month. This group is working to encourage use of Low Impact Design elements in all developments.

2006 Friends Membership

We've undergone some basic re-organization and need to get our records straight. We are working to update our database and need your help. Below is a list of our 2006 members. If we missed your name, please contact us at 757-229-5637 so we can remedy our error. Remember that your membership dues and donations are tax deductible. Again, sincerest thanks for your support.

Tom & Jennifer Austin, Bret Bettge, Sandy & Randy Boatwright, Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Borg, Skip Campana, Marsha Clark, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Conley, Dave Cox, Dan DeSantis, John & Emily Duffy, Carol Ann Ellett, Mr. & Mrs. Forrest Fenstennaker, Mr. & Mrs. George Francis, Charles Frey, Terry Gallagher, George Grayson, Bruce & Joanne Griggs, Patricia Groeninger, Susan Harris, Doris Herrick, Bill & Ann Hewitt, John & Brenda Hughes, Dave Jannan, Roy & Phyllis Jennings, Don & Boots Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Johnson, Sarah Kadec, Paul Karch, Sue & Ingo Keilitz, Patrick Kenney, Robert & MaryJane Kenney, Robert & Stephanie King, Margaret Kwiatkowski, Neil & Petra LaFountain, Julie Leverenz, Robert & Carole Lynch, Mr. & Mrs. Mark McElroy, John & Terri McGlennon, Ken & Brenda Mitchell, Archer Moran, Brian & Maureen Ostrom, Dick & Dorothy Reeves, Mr. & Mrs. David Rex, Robert & Karen Richardson, Elizabeth Rogers, John & Jonathan Schmerfeld, Mark & Marie Sexton, Kensett Teller, Linn & Jason Thoms, TK Antiques, Tom & Joanna Turbeville, Hugh & June Van Brimer, Jerome & Elaine Wassennan, Angie Williamson.

Our goal is to double our membership in 2007. Remember, the higher our numbers, the louder our voice. Thanks to all for your generosity!

J4C's: A Community Liaison Group

The Friends of Powhatan Creek has joined the James City County Concerned Citizens (J4C's), a recently formed coalition of special interest groups, HOA's, and individuals dedicated to the well-being of the County. The interests of the group range from the environment and natural resources to monitoring rapid development, economic growth, traffic, schools, and government policy. The Five Areas of Concern are: continuing to monitor development applications, supporting a strong rural lands policy, participating in the 2008 Comprehensive Plan, and management of traffic and water resources. The first in a series of Community Education Forums was held on October 2 on ground water. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month from 4:30- 6 PM. Contact Sarah Kadec at 757-259-0358 for information on how you can help.