

# FRIENDS OF THE LOWER APPOMATTOX RIVER

## Appamatuck Ripples - Why the Name?

When creating Friends of the Lower Appomattox River's first newsletter, Appamatuck Ripples, group members decided it was important to reflect in the name of the newsletter something significant about the river's history.

Throughout history, how the river was spelled underwent seemingly as many changes as there are bends in the river based in large part on how the barely literate English settlers heard and wrote the name. To capture that history in the name, FOLAR selected one historic spelling.

The following is based on ethnological research done by archeologist Charles Edgar Gilliam and reported in the June 1950 edition of Quarterly Bulletin of the Archeological Society of Virginia. It provides a short glimpse into the various spellings of today's Appomattox and was contributed by FOLAR member R. Steve Thomas.

In 1607, Christopher Newport and his party were welcomed by "Appamattoc" Queen Oppossoquionuske in her Village of "Apamatuk," also called "Mattica" at Bermuda Hundred.

In 1608, John Smith, Ralph Waldo and party explored the river as far as the mouth of Puddledock Creek. Their barge could go no farther because the river was too shallow. (It was only after dredging the river in 1656, that flat-bottom boats were able to get up to Fort Henry, which later would be called Petersburg.) Smith and Waldo learned that the principal village of the "Appamattoc" was nearby on the north side of Wighwhippoc Creek, now Swift Creek. It was across the creek from present day White Bank Park. King Coquonasum was the brother of Queen Opposonuske, and he called the village "Appamatucks." He was driven off his land in 1623.

Henry Randolph, the first clerk of Henrico, acquired title to the land and in his family bible in 1663, called his home "Appomattox," the spelling of which would become the accepted spelling of the river. The "Appamattoc" Indians said the name meant winding, tidal river. Old Towne Creek in Colonial Heights was originally "Appamatucks" Towne, but it was an English town settled in 1635 after the "Appamattoc" were driven up to their last settlement on Old Indian Town Creek, now called Rohoic Creek.

## Grants FOLAR Has Received in 2006

- Waste Management – \$5,000
- NiSource Foundation – \$20,000
- John Randolph Foundation – \$5,000
- Virginia Outdoors Fund – \$12,500
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Bay Mini-Grant – \$2,230

## Non-Point-Source-Pollution Education Program

In May, 2006, FOLAR, in partnership with Crater Planning District Commission, developed a Watershed Education CD program. It addresses watersheds and non-point-source pollution prevention issues. The 10-minute PowerPoint program uses many local examples and solutions. The target audiences of the presentation are area middle-school students. The program is designed to meet state Standards of Learning requirements, or SOLs. The following subjects are covered in the presentation:

- Watersheds
- The Lower Appomattox River region
- Point- and non-point-source pollution
- What can be done to help?

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the CD, please send an e-mail request with your mailing address to [vliu@cpd.state.va.us](mailto:vliu@cpd.state.va.us).

## Memberships

The FOLAR Board approved the following membership fee schedule at its January meeting.

### Individual

- \$5 – Student Member
- \$25 – Sustaining Member

### Business

- \$200 to \$499 – Silver Member
- \$500 to \$999 – Gold Member
- \$1,000 or more – Platinum Member

The FOLAR Board also agreed that any fees are voluntary. Membership are both welcome and encouraged to help fund the projects and programs.

## FOLAR Receives Grants for Plantings, Riprap

On April 14, FOLAR partnered with the James River Association, John Randolph Medical Center, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the City of Hopewell to plant trees, shrubs and flowers in the recently renovated park behind the vacant Patrick Copeland School in downtown Hopewell. The Fish and Wildlife Foundation provided a \$1,000 grant for the project. Native plants were purchased that will help to stop runoff and provide better sediment control. FOLAR provided lunch for the volunteers. A few weeks later, Vulcan Materials donated a load of riprap that will also prevent runoff around an old storm-drainage pipe. City workers and inmates from Riverside Regional Jail helped to spread sand and place the riprap. The arrangement for the inmates was made by Hopewell Sheriff Greg Anderson.



Panoramic view of Patrick Copeland School site



Tree planting at Patrick Copeland School site



Volunteers at Patrick Copeland School site

## FOLAR Publishes River and Trail Guide

Friends of the Lower Appomattox River has published a new brochure for river visitors. The Lower Appomattox River and Trail Guide was published this past summer in a cooperative effort by Friends, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Appomattox River Soil and Water Conservation District, Crater Planning District Commission, the Chesapeake Bay Program and Chesterfield County.

Sized to fit easily in one's pocket, the guide includes a map of the lower Appomattox River and detailed road directions to the many points where visitors may access hiking trails or portions of the river known for paddling. Also included is information about several of the many historical sites along the river, as well as an introduction to FOLAR and information about getting involved in the organization.

The brochure was made possible by a Department of Conservation and Recreation grant that was obtained by the Appomattox River Soil and Water Conservation District.

The Lower Appomattox River and Trail Guide has been distributed to many area public libraries and visitor centers, as well as many other locations, and is free to the public. For more information, call 861-1666.



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**2006 Report**

Welcome and thank you for supporting our organization. FOLAR looks forward to continuing its mission to conserve and protect the Appomattox River while promoting its scenic, natural beauty as well as its historical and cultural attributes. I hope everyone has had a great summer.

I will recap some of our successes, beginning with things that occurred in 2005. A 1,500-foot trail was developed along the river at Campbell's Bridge in Petersburg. Our partners for this project were City of Petersburg, Columbia Gas, Vulcan Materials and the National Park Service. In June, the Prince George Appomattox River Park opened after two years of work from volunteers and many donations from over 20 different companies. On Oct. 11, 2005, we partnered with Dominion Resources and City of Hopewell to rehabilitate a park behind the old Patrick Copeland School in downtown Hopewell. Along with these events, we held a regional meeting with stakeholders along the Appomattox to update them on our work and get input for future projects and held two river cleanups.

In 2006, a trail brochure titled the Lower Appomattox River and Trail Guide was published, and a PowerPoint presentation on non-point-source pollution was completed. The non-point-source pollution presentation will be distributed on CDs to all the middle schools along the lower Appomattox River. Along with these projects were tree plantings behind the old Patrick Copeland School and the Evergreen Motel in Hopewell. Also a spring and fall river cleanup also were held. Further goals were to complete a river observation deck in the Prince George Appomattox River Park and a major portion of the trail in Petersburg that connects Ferndale Park and Campbell's Bridge. These projects were funded through grants and donations from generous donors.

FOLAR and its members have proven they can get the job done! Its credibility has been rewarded with significant grants and donations to move forward on their goals. These have come from NiSource (Columbia Gas), Waste Management, City of Hopewell, Dominion Resources, John Randolph Foundation, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and others. FOLAR thanks all its members, volunteers and sponsors for their continued support of the organization and we wish all the very best as the year draws to a close.



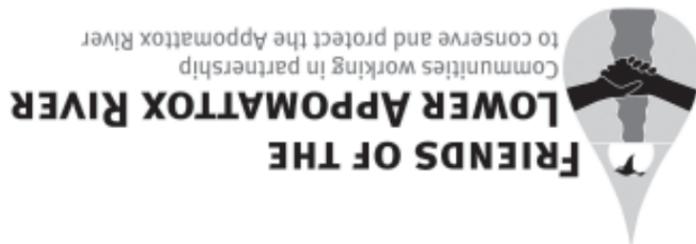
*Volunteers at Evergreen project*

**Evergreen Overlook Provides Views of the Appomattox**

Hopewell recently acquired a parcel of land behind the Evergreen Motel along the Appomattox River. In May, Friends of the Lower Appomattox River, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, the Rotary Club of Prince George County and city workers collaborated on a project to create a river overlook at the site. John Randolph Foundation provided lunch for the volunteers, who built a fence and planted trees, flowers and grass.

This river overlook will provide opportunities to view wildlife including eagles, ospreys and great blue herrings. The site is accessible from Riverside Drive off Randolph Road near the C. Hardaway Marks Bridge. The overlook has a view of the Appomattox River as it flows toward its confluence with the James River. This Hopewell gateway will provide another access point for locals and travelers to enjoy the Appomattox River. Thrivent donated \$1,000 for mulch and plantings.

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postage