

# THE RIVER RUNS

News from the Cowpasture River Preservation Association

## The Mighty Muskellunge: River Friend or Foe?

*By Polly Newlon, Editor*

If you happen to mention the word “Muskie” to some of the landowners that live along the Cowpasture, you’ll be met with, at best, a sorrowful stare toward the ground and a shake of the head or, at worst, a loud, emotional outburst along the lines of “I hate those \*\*blankety, blank, blank\*\* things!” And yet, if you mention this fish to some of the avid fisherfolk around the region and the state, you’ll just as readily be met with a broad smile, a twinkle in the eye, and a recounting of some delightful memory of fishing for these toothy monsters as one of the best fresh water angling challenges to be found.

Not counting myself as a particularly knowledgeable fisherperson, I thought it worthwhile to enlighten myself (and perhaps some of our readers) as to just what the story is on this fish.



*Although not Virginia natives, Muskies are found throughout Virginia’s fresh waters, having been introduced many years ago in several mid-Atlantic states. The Cowpasture hasn’t been stocked with them since the 60’s, but they’re still out there. Photo: Jason Hallacher*

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*People:*

Thank YOU and Farewell  
Board Elections

*Education:*

Scholarships Awarded

**July 30th - Riverside Picnic**

**REGISTER NOW!**

**See page 11**

So, I contacted biologists Jason Hallacher and Paul Bugas at the VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) and started asking questions. Their answers are found below.

*PN: Exactly what are muskies?*

*DGIF: The Muskellunge (Muskie or Musky) (*Esox masquinongy*) is part of the Esocidae or Pike family. There are 5 species of fish in Virginia that fall under this family. They are the Northern Pike, Muskellunge, Chain Pickerel, Redfin Pickerel, and Grass Pickerel.*

*PN: Where do they come from?*

*DGIF: The pickerels are all native to Virginia; however the Pike and the Muskellunge are introduced species. The Muskellunge are natives of the north. There are three reported genetic strains represented by three relatively distinct color patterns. They are the spotted form of the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence basin; the barred form of the Ohio River basin; and a relatively patternless form in northwestern Ontario, Wisconsin, and westward.*

*Continued, page 4*

CRPA

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2011-2012

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## From the President

Hello Everyone,

This is my first letter as President of the Board of the CRPA and I guess its purpose is to introduce myself to all of you. But that feels strange, because over the years I think I've met virtually all of you. So this is not a real introduction, but a hello again!



We are beginning another year with the CRPA, and according to my calculations (uncertain at best) this will be our 39th year of operation. Considering what a relatively small organization we are, that's an impressive number. How many other organizations like ours have lasted as long and remained as strong? Seems to me next year would be a great time to have a grand celebration commemorating such an achievement.

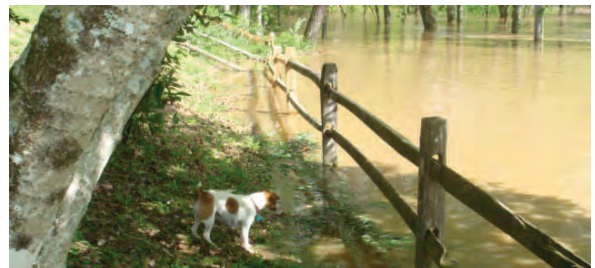
Even though this year will be a 'regular' year for us, it promises to be anything but. As Polly explains in her ED report on the next page, she has decided to shift her focus with us to becoming more involved on the scientific side. While we'll miss her outstanding leadership in her current role we are delighted that she will continue to work with us from a water monitoring and water quality perspective.

That means of course that we will need to search for and hire another Executive Director this summer. I'm happy to say that Bill Hardbarger, a long time supporter and former board member of the CRPA had just been reelected to the board and will head that search. But you can help. Should you know of person(s) who might be qualified and interested, please let Bill or me know right away. The committee is already working hard.

We are making a concerted effort this year to involve more of our membership in committee activities. Whether your interest is in development (fundraising), membership, finance, education, public relations, or river monitoring, we welcome your assistance. If we ever did, we need even more now to spread the news of our organization and the projects we support (community education, river monitoring, and others.) By doing so we raise awareness of water quality issues, develop appreciation for our magnificently clean Cowpasture, and otherwise engage the community in environmental concerns. We want your help. Please let me or any board member know how you'd like to help.

I'm delighted to join with you as we move forward this year. Please be in touch with any questions, thoughts or comments. Sharing goes both ways!!

See you on the river!  
Jean



## Executive Director Update

Greetings, members! In this update, a bit of news that I must report for those who may not have heard is that I'll be stepping down as the CRPA's executive director as of September 1. My hope is to continue with the organization, but in a role that is focused on the monitoring program and its potential expansion. The citizen science effort is, after all, what attracted my husband Keith and I to the organization when we joined several years ago. Over the last three years, I've enjoyed my role as director tremendously, but have found it difficult to wear all of the ED's hats and still find time to be engaged in the water quality component of our strategic plan. I have proposed to the board that over the next several months, I attempt to find grant funding to further develop that aspect of the CRPA's mission. In the meantime, as Jean mentioned, the board has formed a search committee for the ED position. Be assured that I will do anything I can to assist with the transition of leadership. A strong and engaged board will be the most critical component for success in garnering a qualified and vital candidate to continue moving forward. It's really been a joy to work (and play) with everyone, and I've made some fabulous new friends and colleagues. I will continue to be active and to see everyone at events, so this is by no means farewell. But, getting back to river topics..... it finally stopped raining and, but for the occasional thunderstorm, the river is settling down. The solstice is upon us and people are fishing, paddling, and enjoying many other riverside activities. Be sure to join the CRPA riverside on July 30th for the annual picnic. This year it's being held at the old Camp Wallawhatoola Lodge at Millboro Springs, thanks to our gracious member hosts. You can find the registration form on page 11. Bring friends and family for an afternoon of loafin', fellowship, and enjoying some of the finest homemade pot luck fare in the region. A float/paddle trip of some sort is also in the planning stages, probably located further south than our May attempt in northern Bath, since water levels will be down considerably by then. I just finished up another season of rain barrel workshops, always a fun and rewarding activity, and the annual meeting was another great success. For more information on recent and upcoming events, *read on*. Best to all for a joyous summer and thanks to everyone who has been so friendly, helpful, and supportive of my efforts these last few years! And a special thanks to my wonderful husband, Keith Carson, who has helped at virtually every event I've orchestrated (without pay) and has regularly schlepped all manner of stuff around the region in that effort. Polly



### Upcoming Events: Near and Far

**Saturday, July 30:** CRPA Annual Picnic - see page 11 for details.

**August 10-13:** EPA Region III Volunteer Monitoring Conference, Carroll Community College, Westminster, MD. Registration fee of \$35. Find more information at: <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/streams/streamSymposium.asp>.

**September 29 - October 2.** 2011 Chesapeake Watershed Forum with keynote speaker Tim Palmer, author and photographer (see [www.timpalmer.org](http://www.timpalmer.org) for more). Additional information will be posted on <http://www.allianceforthebay.org> as plans develop, and for registration.

**Saturday, October 1:** The 7th Annual Freshwater Folk Festival at White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery. Lots of fun, educational opportunities for young and old kids. Festivities begin at 10am. Go to <http://www.freshwaterfolkfestival.org/> for more information.

**Thursday, October 6.** USGS Lecture by Dr. Ian R. Waite, 10 a.m., VA Water Science Center, Richmond, Va. The relation between watershed disturbance and biological communities will be demonstrated through the use of new ecological modeling methods for studies examining spatial variability and scale. Contact George E. Harlow at 804-261-2631 or [geharlow@usgs.gov](mailto:geharlow@usgs.gov) for more information.



## The Muskie Issue (continued): Feast or Beast?

**PN:** *How did they come to VA and the CpR?*

**DGIF:** Muskie are considered to be a cool water fish, but they do just as well in southern waters. Many southern states have introduced Muskie as a trophy fish for anglers. In Virginia they are stocked in a variety of lakes and rivers. Lakes include Smith Mountain, Claytor, Rural Retreat, Burke, Shenandoah, and Flannagan. Rivers include the New, James, Shenandoah, and Clinch. The Cowpasture River was last stocked in 1969 by DGIF. Any fish found in the Cowpasture today were either born there or have migrated upstream from the James River.

**PN:** *What is the density of their population?*

**DGIF:** Muskie are large and at the top of the food chain. Therefore, they need more space per fish and are territorial about their space. These characteristics, along with a need for deeper, slow moving pools as habitat, tend to keep their density in the Cowpasture relatively low.

**PN:** *What do they eat?*

**DGIF:** Muskellunge are considered opportunistic feeders and will eat a variety of prey. When young muskie first hatch, the fry initially feed on plankton and insect larvae. They then move on to small minnows and shiners. As muskellunge grow, they start to feed on larger prey items. They prefer soft finned fish like suckers, chubs, and fallfish. However, they will also eat sunfish, catfish, and bass. Being opportunistic, they would eat trout as well but, since they like warm water and the trout like it cold, they are not likely to be found in close vicinity of each other.

Muskellunge are an ambush predator so they like to hide in and around thick vegetation, large rocks, and logs. They are very streamlined and have large canine like teeth which make them well adapted to quickly ambush and capture their prey. Muskie will even take terrestrial animals like ducks, frogs, and muskrats.

Unfortunately, the Muskellunge has a bad reputation among anglers for destroying bass populations. A common misconception is that the Muskie are eating all the bass, but this is not the case. Muskellunge definitely eat bass. However, they are a very small proportion of their diet. Smallmouth bass populations are most affected by poor spawning success which is caused by spring flooding. The more successful the spawn, the more fish there will be to catch in the upcoming years.

**PN:** *Are they good to eat?*

**DGIF:** Some say Muskie are a good eating fish with white, flaky meat. The only drawback is that they are very bony. Most anglers that are Muskie enthusiasts choose to catch and release the Muskie since they are known as the

fish of 10,000 casts. By releasing the fish they have a better chance of catching them another day.

**PN:** *Where and how do they spawn?*

**DGIF:** Muskellunge spawn in late March, into April and seek out shallow, slow moving water to do so. Typically, one to two males will swim alongside the female releasing milt while she broadcasts her eggs over vegetation or leaves. Muskellunge eggs are adhesive and stick to whatever they touch. The offspring grow fast initially and reach sexual maturity at age 3 to 5 years old.

**PN:** *How long do they live?*

**DGIF:** In southern waters they can live to be 15 years old. In northern states Muskie can live much longer, as much as 30 years in one particular case.

**PN:** *How big do they get?*

**DGIF:** They can grow very big. The state record Muskellunge was over 50" and weighed 45 pounds

**PN:** *What are the rules for fishing for muskie?*

**DGIF:** On the Cowpasture you can keep 2 Muskie per day over 30".



**Jason Hallacher displays an impressive muskie caught on personal time in the Shenandoah River. Fish this size are a formidable presence anywhere. Photo from Jason Hallacher.**

A search of the internet yielded many muskie lovers, big fish anglers for the most part, but the muskie haters are out there. A search for "the muskies are eating all..." turned up a long list of blogophiles blaming them for eating all the bass, perch, walleyes, crappies, trout, and, for some, all of the gamefish! Misconceptions? Could well be. One thing does seem evident. I could find no actual data to support their substantially compromising any particular fishery. For now, perhaps we can hope that they are relatively low in number, have a balanced diet, and that the river's overall ecosystem will be forgiving of their presence.

## Tweets and Tidbits: News in Brief

### ***George Washington National Forest Plan:***

***It's Out for Public Comment until September 1, 2011.***

In last summer's edition of *The River Runs*, we spoke of the draft for the next 10 year plan for management of the George Washington National Forest. Many of us live near, recreate in, and treasure the GWNF and it is in everyone's best interest to follow this story and voice your thoughts. Over the next several months, the Forest Service will be holding another series of public outreach workshops on the draft plan and environmental impact statement. Times and locations of three coming soon to our region are:

**Tuesday, July 12 6:30 - 9:00 pm**

East Hardy High School, 259 Cougar Drive, **Baker, WV**

**Monday, July 18 6:30 - 9:00 pm**

Augusta County Govt Ctr, 18 Govt Ctr Lane, **Verona, VA**

**Wednesday, July 27 6:30 - 9:00 pm**

Valley Elementary School, 98 Panther Dr., **Hot Springs, VA**

The draft plan, in its formidable entirety, can be found on the Forest Service's website. Just go to [www.fs.usda.gov](http://www.fs.usda.gov) and in the section at the top to "Find a forest or grassland" go to the "By name" box and select "Jefferson". This will bring you to the GWNF and JNF home page and the link to the draft plan can be found there.

The formal 90-day comment period ends on September 1, 2011. Comments will be accepted by the U.S. Forest Service until then. Those who wish may submit multiple sets of comments. Written comments can be submitted to: George Washington Plan Revision, George Washington & Jefferson National Forests, 5162 Valleypointe Parkway, Roanoke, VA 24019. Comments may also be submitted by email to the address: [comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us)

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### ***2011 Workshops Garner More Friends of Water***

After an incredibly rainy spring, numbers of attendees were down somewhat from last year in the Bath and Highland rain barrel workshops. According to staff at Clean Virginia Waterways, collaborators on this project, such was the case statewide this year. Perhaps all of the soggiess of spring lulled some into thinking that we wouldn't dry up. But then June came along and, as is usual for this area, the spigot turned off! Unlike the two more remote counties of Bath and Highland, slots at the Alleghany workshop at Dabney S. Lancaster were filled up weeks in advance. New locations were used in Bath and Highland in order to reach some that didn't attend last year's program. The Bath workshop was

held in the beautiful Old Dairy Barn in Warm Springs. The Virginia Homestead Preservation Trust co-sponsored the event by providing the facility for free. In Highland, the June workshop was held at the Blue Grass Ruritan Building, about 9 miles north of last year's Monterey location. The Ruritans also donated the use of their facility as a community service in support of environmental programs. We offer our thanks to both of these organizations for such benevolent collaboration. All equipment and supplies for this year's workshops were provided by a generous grant from the Beirne Carter Foundation which really made it all possible. Many watershed groups use these workshops as fundraisers, but the CRPA just tries to break even and get the barrels out there. As is always the case, everyone who attended, no matter where, went away with barrels in hand and smiles on their faces. Thanks to everyone who showed an interest in this program. Another 60 rain barrels are out there diverting storm water. It's all good!



***In Blue Grass, retired Highland High School principal, Randy Hooke and wife Nancy work on placing the barrel overflow piece in just the right spot as Dorothy Terry of Monterey prepares to thread her overflow connector into the barrel.***

***Thanks go out to CRPA members and folks at all sites who helped with the workshops. We couldn't have done it without YOU!***

**Keith Carson  
Judy Clark  
John Dynes**

**Mary Hodges  
Terry King  
Martha Rule**

# More Tweets

## **OP ED: And what about those volunteers?**

By Polly Newlon

Everyone knows that the CRPA is a volunteer organization. But what exactly does that mean? Back before there was an executive director, it meant that if something, anything was going to happen or get done, it was because someone in the river community stepped up. Many, many people have given of their personal time over the years to keep the organization going and help it to grow. When a part-time executive director was hired in the fall of 2006, a large burden of the work was removed from the board. Many members, undoubtedly suffering some level of burnout, sat back with a sigh of relief.

Having an ED has had disadvantages too. It's easy to assume that this person will take care of things. However, reliance on volunteers remains critical to the livelihood of the organization. After three years in the ED's spot, I must say that time and again when the call goes out for help on the board, committees, or for projects and activities, it is the same small group of members that show up to help (You know who you are.) For all the others (and I know it's hard for non- or part-time residents who are not always in the neighborhood), I would ask that you ask yourself, "What can I do for the river today?" Look back over the last year and count the hours you've put in for the river. Perhaps you have an expertise you could provide for the organization. Perhaps you could write something for the newsletter. Perhaps you could go talk to a group of kids somewhere, even distant, about the CpR and/or the CRPA.

A new ED will be coming on this fall and will need your help. Please introduce yourself. Let her or him know what you can do and how you see your role in this wonderful and important volunteer organization.



**Many thanks to Dave Peters, one of those members that's always there when you need him. Here, he attends the CRPA outreach display at the Highland County Maple Festival.**

## **Junior members needed. Got kids?**

In 2009, the CRPA formally voted upon and announced a junior membership for anyone 15 years old and under who is willing to put in at least four hours per year helping the organization. This could be helping with cleanups, the monitoring effort, outreach, or any of the educational and/or other activities of the organization. Junior members hold the legacy of the river as they will inherit it and determine its future, for better or worse. Generations of youth have lived on, summered, or camped on the Cowpasture over the years and it never fails to impact the rest of their lives. They are a great resource for furthering the good works of the CRPA. If you have kids, grandkids or know someone under 16 who wants to learn from and benefit the river in return, please consider signing them up for a junior membership. If the junior members reach sufficient numbers, there are lots of possibilities for activities that are geared toward youth and they would have an opportunity to take part in and provide a whole new perspective to the programs of the CRPA.



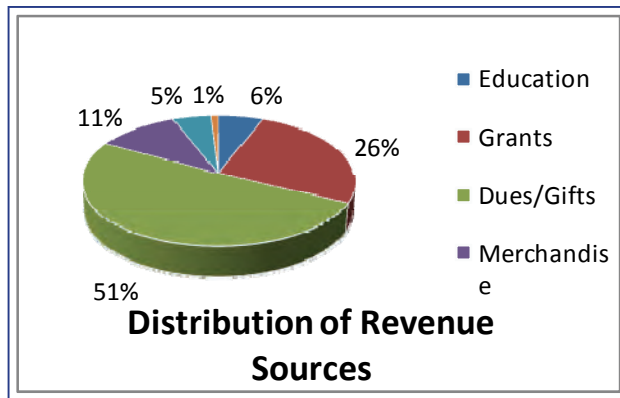
The first, formal junior membership went to Sterling Ford who lives in Berkshire, Vermont. Sterling is the son of Russell and Brook Ford and grandson of Kent and Ellen Ford of Millboro. Sterling is already an accomplished naturalist at the age of 12 years and is an active birder both at home and when visiting his grandparents' farm on Stuart's Draft. Sterling participates actively in CRPA events and has been on many macroinvertebrate and bacterial monitoring excursions on the CpR. Sterling loves anything plant or animal and has already achieved a remarkable knowledge base on such matters. If the river will be inherited by members like Sterling, we will have nothing to worry about!

**Above: Sterling cradles a rescued squab, helps release larval mussels back into the Cowpasture, and paddles his way along Lake Champlain in search of Peregrine Falcon nests.**

# 2010 Financial Report Reflects Short Fiscal Year

## Income/expenses for last eight months of 2010 offer no concerns

As of January 1, 2011, CRPA entered a new fiscal year which is now in alignment with the calendar year. Therefore, the end-of-year financial report provided at the annual meeting in May by Treasurer Lizzie Biggs only covered eight months. The operating finances remain positive and generally in line with the budget. The short year actuals, provided in the table to the right, show both lower income and expenses than the previous 12 month year, as one might expect. The pie-chart below shows that, proportionately, revenues continue to come primarily from membership dues and gifts (51%) with about one quarter coming from grants (26%).



The grant revenue figure for last year is somewhat understated as the CRPA also received a \$1,000 grant from the Keith Campbell Foundation to help with costs of the website renovation last fall. Those funds did not flow through the CRPA, but rather, went from the foundation directly to the workshop providers and hence do not show up on the income statement. Last year was also a great year for merchandise sales thanks to the efforts of several CRPA members who purchased larger than usual numbers of tee shirts. The hope will be to eventually provide merchandise online, although the cost effectiveness and logistics of inventory management and still under consideration. Events are routinely considered a “break-even” enterprise as they are generally not treated as fund raisers per se. These primarily include the annual meeting and picnic for which cost to members is held as low as possible to encourage attendance. Board discussions about the pros and cons of creating an endowment for long-term sustainability are also ongoing and will likely be discussed during the upcoming development of the next strategic plan.

The annual budget for the year in progress, FY 2011, totals \$40,625. As of 5/31/11, revenues were \$20,347 and expenditures, \$15,879 so the year is progressing nicely. The organization’s balance sheet continues to look quite healthy with total assets of \$61,275 as of May 31, 2011.

### Summary Income/Expense Statement

Short Fiscal Year: May 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010

<i>Income:</i>	<u>Actual</u>
Temporarily Restricted Income (Grants and Educational Programs)	9,090
Unrestricted Income (Dues, Gifts, Merchandise, Events)	19,310
Interest Income	412
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 28,812</b>

### *Expense:*

Educational Programs	4,139
Advertising	115
Merchandise Expense	1,859
Administrative Support (Postage, Ofc. Supplies, etc)	1,290
Website	1,000
Payroll Expense	15,756
Newsletter - printing & mailing	854
Events	1,687
River Monitoring (Supplies and Training Programs)	320
Reimbursed Travel & Meetings	1,995
Other expense (Equipment, etc)	0
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 29,015</b>
Change in Net Assets Unrestricted	(1,535)
Change in Net Assets Temporarily Restricted	<u>1,332</u>
<b>Total Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ (203)</b>

# People Matter: Welcome.... Thank You.... Farewell....

*Welcome to our family and THANKS from all of us to all of you!  
New memberships and contributions since April, 2011.*

## Watershed Stewards

Clarence L. Carson  
Michael Wildasin

## Headwaters Circle

Lucius and Pam Bracey  
John DeVenny  
Bob and Ann Howe Hilton  
Lee Elliott and Bill Jones  
Frank and Judy Marks  
Mary Powell-McDaniel  
Anna and Tom Lawson  
Chris and Forrest Moore  
Truman T. Semans  
Donald Sutton, Jr.  
Walnut Tree Farm  
Camille Wheeler and  
William Marshall  
Robin and Mina Wood

**A new way to give!**  
Now you can pay dues or make a gift  
online at [www.cowpastureriver.org](http://www.cowpastureriver.org).  
Just go to "donate" and find the way  
you'd like to give.

## River Guardians

The Highlander Hunt Club  
Mike Goode  
Michael Jamison  
Lois and Gary Johnson  
Terry and Mary Margaret King  
Richard and Jean N. Miller  
Betty Jo Rhodes  
Bill and Nan Mahone Wellborn

## Members

Bob and Betsy Brickhouse  
Gwendolyn Broce  
Mike and Shirley Cunningham  
David Ray, Jr.  
Martha Ruggles  
Hallie Shires

## In Memorium: Peck LaRue

Jane and Edward Blake  
Kent and Ellen Ford  
William and Dorothy Middleton

## Welcome New Members!

Dan and Alex Bracey  
New York, NY  
  
Keturah Bracey and Jay Horine  
New York, NY  
  
The Highland Hunt Club  
Quinton, VA  
  
Robert, Christina, Peyton,  
and Ryan Hilton  
Fairport, NY  
  
Jon, Betsy, and Cecelia Lasley  
Millersville, MD  
  
James Shelton  
Richmond, VA

**Did we get it wrong? We're sorry for any errors or omissions in this list. It covers those donations received since the last newsletter and through 6/30/11. We are happy to correct errors.**

**Email [directorcrpa@gmail.com](mailto:directorcrpa@gmail.com)  
or call 540.474.2858.**

## Farewell to a Friend: Peck LaRue passes away quietly in early June

On June 6th, James Wilmore "Peck" LaRue passed on in perhaps the most peaceful way - during a nap at his home in Millboro. Peck spent much of his 87 years in Bath County enjoying everything it had to offer from farming to hunting to jousting tournaments. He was a graduate of Washington and Lee University and a decorated veteran of World War II in which he drove an ambulance transporting wounded. His daughter and son-in-law, Custer LaRue and Chris Smith returned to Bath to be with him several years ago and although he lost his wife Janis in 2001, he always had family near. He and Janis were long time supporters of the CRPA and Janis served on the board. Several of Janis' drawings appeared on calendars and notecards of CRPA's merchandise cache. Mr. LaRue is survived by his two daughters, Shawn LaRue Nashwinter of Marshall and Custer LaRue Smith and husband Chris of Millboro. He also leaves behind a brother, Clarence LaRue of Kingsport TN and a sister, Ann Durfee of Sarasota, FL. Peck had four grandchildren, Mara LaRue, Julia and Courtney Nashwinter, and George W. Haws as well as two great-grandchildren and nine nieces and nephews. The family has requested that memorial donations be made to the CRPA and a fund has been set up in his honor. A lovely and more detailed tribute to Mr. LaRue can be found in the June 16th edition of The Recorder Newspaper at [www.therecorderonline.com](http://www.therecorderonline.com) or at [www.nicelyfuneralhome.com](http://www.nicelyfuneralhome.com). Our condolences go out to family members.

## People Matter: Board is smaller, but well prepared.

*At the Annual Business Meeting, May 14th, the CRPA membership ratified proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws as presented in the Spring edition of The River Runs. They also elected, by acclamation, the proposed slate of three new directors to the board: Bill Hardbarger, Martha Rule, and Joe Wood, as well as a second term for Read Lunsford. Bill and Joe have both served previously on the Board and are ready to hit the ground running. This will be important since this year a new, updated strategic plan will be on the agenda for board development. We must sadly note that, although elected, Martha Rule has had to resign for personal reasons. But Martha will remain as she has been, a very active member, and we'll look forward to working with her on various projects in the coming year. The board lost quite a few very experienced directors this year, all of whom completed six years of service on the board. These included Ellen Ford, Allan Howerton, Anne McCaig, Eddie Walters, and Roy Wright. They will be sorely missed and each will receive a high quality, hand constructed, blue bird nest box as a thank you gift. At the board meeting that followed the annual meeting, new officers were elected for the coming year. They are listed below, to the left.*



**William (Bill) Hardbarger** has been a member of the CRPA since its inception and his father, Herbert, was a founding member. Bill served as president from 1989–92 and again from 1993–94. He chaired the first revision of the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. Over the years, Bill has participated in many CRPA projects including the 2003 Nature Conservancy Plan for the Warm Springs Mountain/Cowpasture River watershed, two GW National Forest 10-year plans, Bath County's long range comprehensive plan, and the Virginia Exceptional Waters Program, Tier III designation. He has also provided assistance with several court cases involving riparian land ownership. Bill recently retired from CSX Railroad after 31 years of service as an Engineer, and Financial Officer for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers Western Railroad Lines. He has spent his entire life on the family farm, "River Bend" and lives there now with his wife of 37 years, Christie. His children, Josh Hardbarger and Katie and Adam Grist, live in Atlanta and are members of the CRPA.

***Congratulations, Officers!***  
***5/1/11—4/30/12***

***President: Jean Howell***

***Vice President: Joe Wood***

***Secretary: Mike Whiteside***

***Treasurer: Lizzie Biggs***

**Robert J. (Joe) Wood** was born and raised in Alleghany County. He spent much of his boyhood swimming and fishing in the Cowpasture River. He lives along the River now in the Walton Tract area of Bath County with his wife, Kathy, and his Great Dane, Carly. He perceives the Cowpasture as a national treasure and works hard to keep it clean and pristine for us, as well as future generations. Joe is a millwright at MeadWestvaco where he has worked for 40+ years. He is an active member of Lone Star Advent Christian Church, chairman of the Bath County Democratic Party, a veteran of the Vietnam War, and member of the CRPA, where he has served as president. In his spare time Joe likes canoeing and swimming in the river, woodworking, traveling, and spending time on the Chesapeake Bay.



### ***Farewell and Thank You!***

***Ellen Ford -- Allan Howerton -- Anne McCaig -- Eddie Walters -- Roy Wright***

***On behalf of the Board and the entire membership, I would like to thank our five departing board members, each having served two, three-year terms. These individuals have brought a huge amount of expertise, knowledge, and energy to the board over their six years of service. Each comes from a different walk of life and has brought wisdom to the variety of activities in which the organization engages. Most have served as officers and/or committee chairs as well. If an organization is to be judged by the commitment of its board members, the CRPA is truly fortunate in this regard.***

***Thanks all of you, Polly Newlon, Executive Director***

***Members - Haven't yet served on the board? Please consider it!***

## Education Matters: Scholarships go to another great group!

The CRPA recently awarded three scholarships to high school graduates from Highland, Bath, and Alleghany High Schools. The great campaign success this year enabled us to raise the amount from \$350 to \$400 for each scholarship. CRPA works in conjunction with scholarship programs of the three public schools. Applications are forwarded to CRPA by the schools and reviewed by CRPA's Education Committee. The committee consisted of Chair, Christie Hardbarger, Eddie Walters, Dave Peters, and Ellen Reynolds. This year a record number of applications were received, eighteen from the three counties. The academic and civic accomplishments of this year's winners were remarkable. Below, we are proud to present this year's winners from the north to south:



### Highland HS—Mariam Foster



Mariam is the daughter of Dan and Ann Foster of Hightown. She was Highland High School's Salutatorian and was president of the Class of 2011 as well as vice president of the local chapter of the National Honor Society and president of the Student Council Association as a junior. Mariam has always been active in the 4-H Club and has received several awards including the Honorary Counselor Award and the Golden Clover Award. Active in sports, she has worked as a lifeguard in the summers for several years. She hopes to attend the University of Richmond and pursue a career in health care. "Living in Highland all my life, I have always been intrigued with the rural practice of our doctors.... With a pre-medical major, I have a lot of freedom for career choices, but I would particularly enjoy pediatrics."



### Bath County HS - Shasta Riley



Shasta is the daughter Benny Riley of Millboro and Lawanda Riley of Warm Springs. During school, she participated in the FFA and horseback riding club and was president of the 4-H Club. She also participated in Rachel's Challenge, and volunteered for the Millboro Spring Walk, the Christmas Mother program, and Toys for Tots. Shasta played basketball and volleyball in school and for work activities, she was a trail guide at the Homestead, was manager's assistant for Diamond Triple C Ranch, and served as a life guard. She has been accepted at Old Dominion University in the biology program. Shasta has always had a passion for animals of all kinds and hopes to become a veterinarian. "During my seventh grade year, I took an exploratory class on the Cowpasture River. This helped me to understand the importance of the animals that live in the river. Throughout my life, the community has supported the field trips and the ability to have animals in the classroom that has encouraged me to pursue my passion."



### Alleghany HS - Kara Smith



Kara is the daughter of Dawn and Leonard Smith of Covington. During high school, Kara served in the Key Club all four years and was active in sports including basketball, volleyball, softball, and track. She participated in choir and a musical quartet, and was a cast member in a musical entitled "Into the Woods". A girl scout for 14 years, she received the silver award in 2009. She was also nominated for the Summer Governor's School in Marine Science. Kara wants to pursue a career in Marine Science and has applied and been accepted at both Old Dominion University and North Carolina Coastal University. She states, "I have always wanted to go into a science that would involve being around and protecting plants and animals. I have especially always wanted to work near the water. I intend on working in the category of animals and plants, especially with sharks and dolphins."

**Note to Members:** After a recent downturn in applications, this year we saw a **record number**. Thanks to all members who encouraged friends and family to participate. Application takes place each spring through the individual schools' scholarship programs. Know a rising senior that loves nature and/or the river? Remember this program next spring! Contact the CRPA or your local high school's guidance department for information.

# *It's Time for the Annual Riverside Picnic*

**When: Saturday, July 30, 2011**

3:00 pm — Swim, Fish (catch and release only),  
and Socialize

5:00 pm — Dinner Served



**Where: The old Camp Wallawhatoola lodge  
201 Old Camp Road, Millboro Springs, VA  
Off Rte 42, 0.5 mile S. of the 42/39 intersection at Millboro Springs**

**Eats: Hot dogs, hamburgers, & beverages will be provided**

**Bring: A side dish or dessert to share, chairs or other seating, family and  
friends, fishing gear, swimming gear.**

**\* No dogs, please \***

**Cost: Adults \$10, Children 12 and under \$5\*\***

**Register NOW!\*\***

**Questions? Contact Polly Newlon**

**Need Directions? 540.474.2858 or directorcrpa@gmail.com**

**Interested in a pre-picnic paddle/float? Contact Polly!**

**\*\* You can pay on site, but please let us know you're coming asap.**

## Riverside Picnic Reservation Form

Send this form with your check to CRPA, P.O. Box 215, Millboro, VA 24460 by July 26

# Adults \_\_\_\_\_@\$10      #Children \_\_\_\_\_@\$5      Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_      Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you a friend of the river? Maybe it's time to JOIN CRPA!**

- \$20 Individual (minimum annual membership donation)
- \$50 River Guardian
- \$100 Headwaters Circle
- \$250 Watershed Steward  Other \_\_\_\_\_
- \$500 Wallawhatoola Society
- >\$500 Bedrock Patron
- Junior Membership(s): 15 years and under; Cost—4 hrs./year volunteer service

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY — STATE — ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

- I prefer not to have my name published as a contributor.
- I am interested in becoming a volunteer river monitor
- I want to help save valuable resources, please send my newsletter by email

**CRPA**  
Cowpasture River  
Preservation Assn.  
P.O. Box 215  
Millboro, VA 24460

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