

FRIENDS OF THE NORTH FORK of the Shenandoah River

Our River, Our Community, Our Choice



Volume 24 Number 2

Summer 2013

Friends Unveils New Logo to Celebrate our 25th Anniversary

Drum roll please....!! As you might have heard by now, Friends of the North Fork is celebrating our 25th year of river protection in the Shenandoah Valley. Along with special fundraising and membership events, we are unveiling a brand new logo to mark our 25th anniversary – see our new masthead at the top of the page and below, our “25 Years” logo! The logo depicts the sinuous bends of the North Fork flowing along the valley floor and held in the comforting arms of rolling green mountains. “Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River” stands out prominently in the logo as protector of watershed health for all that depend on her waters for nourishment and life. Our new logo and variations on the theme will be integrated throughout our communication materials, including a slick new brochure, so keep an eye out for our new style!*** A huge thank you to

Joan Chapman, Mary Gessner, Margaret Lorenz and Cindy Frenzel for serving on the designing committee for our new communications materials. It’s been a team effort! Thanks!



25th Anniversary River Stars

We are commemorating our 25th year of river work with a newly minted donor program - our River stars program. These individuals and families donate \$1,000 or more, annually to help support Friends’ education, advocacy and monitoring efforts. Donors are recognized throughout the year in our publications and at our events. We will also be offering a special event for River Stars in the fall of 2013 as a thank you for their tremendous generosity.

We would like to thank the following individuals for becoming River Stars, for their support and especially for their belief in our efforts to improve the health of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River. Our mission to keep the North Fork clean and healthy is no small task and we are most grateful to these donors and all of our supporters who allow Friends to.... *contd. on p. 3*

Fracking Update

The Forest Service is preparing to release its management plan for the George Washington National Forest (GWNF). Initial versions of the plan maintained a moratorium on horizontal drilling (hydrofracking) in the GWNF; however, heavy push back from the gas industry and from VA government has placed the moratorium in jeopardy. Opening the GWNF to hydrofracking could expose the headwaters of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River and the surrounding communities to potential devastating water pollution and impacts on the rural character and infrastructure of these agricultural and forested regions. **Please stay tuned for Email Action alerts in late August or early September, as we will need your help to fight for maintaining the ban if it is lifted. More information at www.fnfsr.org.**

Education Corner - Cindy Frenzel, Education Coordinator
cindy.frenzel@fnfsr.org, 540-459-8550

North Fork Explorations - One Workshop for Teachers and Two Week Long Camps for Middle and High School Students - Learning and Having Fun on the North Fork!

Once again, our summer camps and workshop for students and teachers – the North Fork Explorations – were enormous successes. **Funded by grants from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund (from fees for the VA license plate with the crab) and the Chesapeake Bay Trust (Maryland's license plate fund) and a grant from the New Market Rotary and Kennametal Foundation**, teachers and students toured the North Fork Shenandoah River watershed by bus, van and canoe – learning about watershed stewardship via hands on and interactive activities.

We had an incredible group of teachers this year from public and private schools throughout the watershed. Each individual brought loads of enthusiasm, questions, and a yearning to learn all they could about the river and its use as a teaching resource. For some it was even an opportunity to conquer a fear of canoeing! This year we asked the teachers to write their reflections on their experiences – some excerpts of some of their writings are below:

“Your class was wonderful. The presentation about water quality in the afternoon made me realize how important it is to make information meaningful. Testing the water ourselves on the second day helped to make the data come alive.”

“I was truly amazed at what new interesting facts and ideas I had when I left after our field trips. It was truly an honor to be a part of this experience and to have met all of you. Thank you for sharing your love of the river with us. It has totally changed how I look at what I do every day and how it affects not just the river but my life. This program was fantastic and I will inform other teachers about it in the future.”

“The three-day workshop has been one of the most valuable I have attended in all my years of teaching!”

“The whole experience this week was amazing. I

learned so much and.... I conquered my fear! When I signed up for this class, my goal was to make me a better teacher, never realizing the impact it would have on me personally!”

The students had a fabulous experience as well and glowing words for their Exploration time as well. Their week included a canoe trip, a fish shocking demonstration, fishing, macroinvertebrate hunting and closed with great opportunity to learn how to create a presentation in which they were able to record their activities and experiences for the week. Links to some of these presentations are available at our website - www.fnf.org.

There are many, many people to thank for helping Friends of the North Fork produce these three fantastic learning opportunities for teachers and students in the North Fork Shenandoah River watershed: Jason Hallacher, Justin Heflin, Steve Reeser and Fred Frenzel - VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries, Mike Liskey - Natural Resource Conservation Service, Brad Delinger – Shenandoah County Landfill, Jamie Silveus – Woodstock Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator, Tim Taylor – Shenandoah County School System, Rebecca Weber - Lord Fairfax Soil and Water Conservation District, Stephanie Coffman - US Forest Service, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation AND a HUGE THANK YOU to Herb Wilburn and Rachel Shoemaker for leading two superb student summer camps.

** Please visit our website (www.fnfsr.org) to see

some of the slide show presentations that the students put together at the end of their week long journeys.



Friends News

FREE - Project Wet Workshop for teachers in the North Fork Watershed

Friends of the North Fork will be holding a 6-hour environmental education workshop on December 7, 2013, from 9am-3pm featuring the Project Wet curriculum.

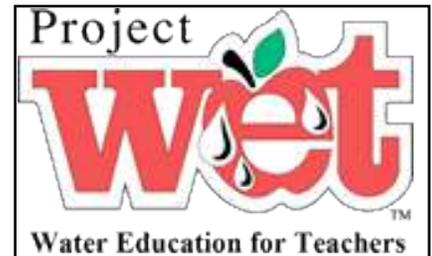
Project Wet Mission: Educate. Empower. Act. The mission of Project WET is to reach children, parents, educators and communities of the world with water education. We invite you to join us in educating children about the most precious resource on the planet — water.

While these exercises are designed for students living worldwide, Cindy will tailor her instruction to

local water resources and highlight how these tools can be used to bring the North Fork of the Shenandoah alive for your students.

K-12 teachers and non-formal educators are welcome to apply for this free workshop. Participants will receive a copy of the Project Wet book and other free resources. Email cindy.frenzel@fnfsr.org if you are interested. Respond early because this popular workshop will fill up fast.

For more information, visit www.projectwet.org to learn about *Worldwide Water*



College Bound Volunteers - Thank You and Good Luck!

Central High School graduate, Skylar Wolf, has been a volunteer surface water monitor with Friends of the North Fork throughout his high school and middle school years. This means that he has risen an hour earlier than necessary almost every other Friday throughout the years in order to pull a water sample from the North Fork. This also means that he has had the support of his family in pursuing his monitoring efforts - until Skylar could drive - his Mom or Dad volunteered to drive him to pick up and drop off his sample. Mom and Dad Wolf are monitors as well, substituting when Skylar was away. And now, Skylar is passing on his monitoring duties to his younger brother, Trevor. Monitoring is a family affair at the Wolf household and we at Friends are grateful for the time and effort the Wolfs and ALL of our volunteer monitors contribute to our water quality monitoring programs. Good luck at Va Tech Skylar!

Friends mentors H.B. Lantz and Joan Chapman have been working for the past two years on water related research projects with students at the Massanutten Regional Governor's School. Emilie Taft worked with H.B. on a study of nutrient levels in Stoney Creek above and below the Georges Chicken waste treatment facility effluent pipe in order to measure changes in water quality related to a major upgrade to the facility. Emily also worked with H.B. to do a short benthic macroinvertebrate study on Stoney Creek. This was a great opportunity for a student to make use of the water quality data that volunteer Lee Dieter has been col-

lecting along Stoney Creek for more than 10 years. And it was a great opportunity for Emily to make pertinent use of the knowledge she acquired related to statistics and data analysis. Thanks to H.B. and thanks to Joan for volunteering to share their expertise and time with these students and Good Luck! to Emily who's off to SUNY College of Environ. and Forestry.

contd. from p. 1... to pursue our work.

25th Anniversary River Stars Thank You:

Dale & Susan Carlson of Carlson Plumbing Inc.

Frank Cihlar

Kindy French

Tanya Harvey & Jay Eiche

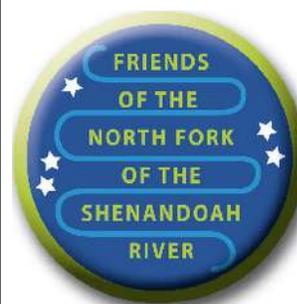
John Holmes

Sean & Melissa Lankard

Pat Munoz & Dorcus Adkins

Margaret Nelson

Diane Zipursky



If you are interested in joining these supporters of Friends and lovers of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River or, if you have any questions, please give Leslie a call at 540-459-8550.

Office Volunteer NEEDED!

Friends is seeking a **10-15 hours per week**, volunteer(s) to assist with managing our membership database, maintaining our Quick Books account and assisting with membership mailings. Major duties would include:

- processing monetary donations, entering data into our membership database and into our online Quick Books account, making copies of forms and checks, filling out deposit sheets, and printing thank you letters and labels,
- maintaining current filing system,
- writing checks from Quick Books online account.

Please call Leslie at 459-8550 if you are interested

Save the DATES!!

August 10 - Visit Friends at the Shenandoah River Fest at Andy Guest Shenandoah River State Park - more info. at <http://shenandoahriverfest.org/>

August 24-31 - Shenandoah County Fair (in the Forest Service Cabin with Smokey)

September 14 - Broadway Autumn Craft Festival

September 20-21 - Edinburg Ole' Time Festival

October 19, 2013 - FISH FRY!

- Friends of the North Fork Fish Fry Fundraiser and
- 25th Anniversary Celebration - 6-9pm Woodstock
- - More information about sponsorships and tickets at www.fnfsr.org -
- or call Leslie at 459-8550.

2013 Member Renewal, New Member or River Star Form

_____ \$35 _____ \$50 _____ \$75
 _____ \$240 _____ \$1,000 River Star

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: ____ Zip: ____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Friends of the North Fork
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Return Service Requested

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