

The river says thanks!



On April 11th, two dedicated crews hauled out trash, tires, and more from the North Fork. One group worked from Woodstock upstream to near Mount Jackson.



The second group focused on a stretch from New Market to under the bridge in Timberville.



Then on April 19, we shared our trash picking expertise and joined a clean-up crew from BioLife Plasma Services and ventured to Port Republic, where the South River and North River join to form the South Fork of the Shenandoah River.



Building community support for Seven Bends State Park

Every State Park eventually develops a local “Friends of” group. Sometimes this happens a few years after the park is fully developed. Here in Woodstock, we have plenty of Friends already and the Park hasn’t even opened yet!

Friends is pleased to announce our formal involvement as the official “community support organization” serving Seven Bends State Park in Woodstock. On our recent tour of the property with Secretary of Natural Resources Molly Ward, we were struck by the amazing potential of this 1,066 acre site. With four miles of river frontage and a landscape that adjoins the National Forest and Massanutten Mountain, Seven Bends is an amazing resource

for everyone in the region.

The General Assembly has provided \$2.24 million in funding to get the Park started. These funds will primarily be used for demolition and removal of buildings at the former Camp Lupton site.

Want to volunteer for some hands-on clean-up and trail work, future education programs and events, or help us find other ways to support the Park and add value for all visitors? Contact Concha Mendoza at concha.mendoza@fnfsr.org or 459-8550.

Stay tuned for more news as the Park begins to develop.

Still time to register for Friends of the North Fork’s Summer Camps!

River Players, rising 1st-3rd graders, July 13-17, Strasburg | River Rangers, rising 4th-7th graders, June 22-26, Mount Jackson | River Explorers, rising 7th-9th graders, June 29 - July 3, Woodstock

Register with the Shenandoah County Parks and Recreation by calling 540-459-6777 or visit our website for a link.

Spring workshops draw community members



We held a second Make-and-Take Painted Floor Cloth Workshop on March 19 and 26. With inspiration from environmental elements, the group created unique and beautiful pieces.



Our first rain barrel workshop of the year on April 16 drew a large crowd. The rain barrels will help reduce stormwater runoff and lower water usage.

Summer interns have big jobs

Our organization relies a lot on part-time employees and generous volunteers. This summer we expect to provide some solid job experience to three local college interns who are helping out with several important projects. It's a big watershed and we really appreciate all the help.



Bria Bryant

Summer project

E. coli sampling at high-use recreation sites

Major

Integrated Science and Technology, Environment Concentration, James Madison University

Interest in our work

Environmental work is a lifelong passion and interest of mine. I think the preservation and conservation of our environment is an essential key to the success of future generations. I am hoping to get hands-on experience. I am looking forward to learning more about the river, sampling techniques, and simply seeing the environment sector from a professional setting.

Future career goals

My future career goal is to do something that will work to better our environment whether that is working with the EPA or with a smaller grassroots organization. I would love to be an environmental consultant so that my work with the environment includes a business aspect.

How do you connect with the outdoors?

I enjoy fishing and floating down the Shenandoah River with my boyfriend as well as spending time with my family, friends, and two dogs, Marley and Zoey.



Megan Church

Summer project

Organizing Friends volunteers and support for Seven Bends State Park and beginning work at the Park.

Degree program

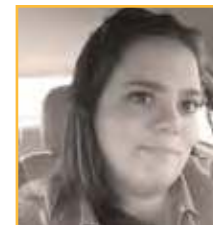
Associate of Arts and Sciences (area: Science), Lord Fairfax Community College

Future goals

I would like to continue to instill in my daughter the love for nature that I have and to raise her here in the valley where I grew up. I love to be able to float on the river, take walks, and play with my dog.

How do you connect with the outdoors?

I have always liked being outside and have had a love for the beauty of nature and wildlife. I have spent many hours enjoying the river. I am very excited to have an opportunity to spread awareness of both the importance of the river and how we all can help to create a safe and beautiful area for families like my own to enjoy.



Amy Johnson

Summer project

Environmental education programs, including events and summer camps.

Degree program

Double major in Environmental and Social Sustainability and Peacebuilding Development, Eastern Mennonite University

Plans for the summer and beyond

I am looking forward to trying different things to get a better understanding and apply some knowledge. I am not sure at the moment what I want to do as a career. I'm open to a wide range of experience.

How do you connect with the outdoors?

I love being outside most of the time whether it's hiking, walking around town, or sitting on the porch.

Leave a Legacy

The river will be here after we're all gone. Please consider a legacy gift to Friends of the North Fork to help ensure that future generations enjoy a clean, healthy, and beautiful river. Discuss planned giving with your financial advisor. It can be as simple as remembering the river in your will.

Save the date! **Annual Fish Fry and Auction**

October 3, 2015



Annual meeting draws crowd

Members gathered in Woodstock on March 21st and heard updates on Friends' activities. Our lead monitor, Roger Bolland, recruited several new monitors to give us more backup at all our sites. The new Shenandoah Riverkeeper, Mark Frondorf, and Friends board member Bud Griswold briefed the group on recent concerns about river health. Thanks to all who attended.

Fish Fry committee looks ahead to October 3rd fundraiser

The Fish Fry committee has begun planning this fall's premier event. Zelda Zadnik, last year's river raffle organizer, is our new Fish Fry chair. She would love your help in making this "the event of the year in the Valley." Please contact our office if you have ideas for the auction or time to help out.

Policy update: Harrisonburg passes stormwater resolution



In March the City of Harrisonburg, which touches on the southern edge of the North Fork watershed, passed a new stormwater utility ordinance. Every property in the City will now pay an annual fee based on the square footage of impervious surface—roofs, driveways, parking areas. This program will build new infrastructure to help the City reduce polluted stormwater runoff and clean up our streams and rivers. We applaud Harrisonburg for taking a leading role and adding a way for everyone in town to help protect their waters.

Environmental justice in the field



Staff members John Eckman and Cindy Frenzel spent some time with a JMU Environmental Justice class in April, helping explain some of the issues in the Valley, from industrial sites and superfund clean-ups, to agricultural challenges, unusual pollutants, and restoration efforts. The group took a field trip to see the Blacks Run "natural stream channel design" restoration project in Harrisonburg, where over 4,000 trees were planted after the stream was reworked into a more natural, sinuous path through Purcell Park.

Maximum Give, Minimum Taxes

If you own something that has significantly grown in value, you may wish to fulfill your charitable giving goals while avoiding capital gains taxes by gifting that asset to a qualified nonprofit organization. Friends of the North Fork is able to accept gifts of appreciated assets including property, stocks, artwork, etc. Speak with your financial advisor and give us a call if we can help.

Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River

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River monitor spotlight



For Trevor Wolf, a Central High School senior, river monitoring is a family affair. The Wolf family has been monitoring for six years at Black Bear Crossing.

“It started out as just my brother and parents, but as I grew so did my interest in preserving the river,” he said. “Monitoring gives policy makers critical information about the health of the river. To me, this is important in the conservation of the Shenandoah.” Their site is one of 20 active sites where volunteers collect samples that they drop off at our office every two weeks. From here, the samples travel to the Friends of Shenandoah River lab where they join samples from other stretches of the river. Trevor reports that his site has remained

consistently clean with little change over the years.

As Trevor leaves the area next year to attend Virginia Tech, he reflects on ways to get others involved in the program: “One of my favorite things to do is kayak and fish on the

Shenandoah. If more people can get involved with these recreational activities it may inspire interest in the river’s conservation.”

If you are interested in becoming a monitor, please call 459-8550 or email friends@fnfsr.org.

