



Family Fun Day Gets a Big Bounce

Join us Saturday June 16th at Strasburg Town Park

Every year our spring river event moves between quiet upstream farms on Smith Creek and more public sites downstream. This year we've partnered with the Town of Strasburg for what should be our biggest event ever!

While it's a mouthful, the Family Fun Fish Fry Float for Father's Day will still have all our usual focus on natural resources and recreation with our many agency and nonprofit partners; but this year expect hundreds more people and the addition of food trucks, music, beer, paddleboards, kayak trips, watermelon eating contests, raffles, and even a bounce house for little folks.

It's the same family fun, only a whole lot more of it!

We're grateful for our many partners and sponsors who are making this event possible, including Sprint, Veterinary Diagnostic Pathology, Spirituous, and Dupont Community Credit Union.

Hope we'll see you on the river, June 16th from 11 to 6!

Outdoor Recreation Class at Seven Bends

On April 5 an Outdoor Recreation class from Lord Fairfax Community College spent the morning at Seven Bends State Park completing trail work. The class of six, who study with professor Stacey Ellis, worked diligently to remove several hundred yards of old fence wire.

Students heard from Chief Ranger Thomas Stevens, Maintenance Ranger Fred Kline, Lead Educational Specialist at Shenandoah River State Park Megan Church, and Friends' Concha Mendoza about the path to their current employment and what their jobs entail. "I really appreciate everyone taking the time to talk with the students about their backgrounds and careers," Professor Ellis said. "It's also such a great opportunity to see a new park in its forming stages."

Professor Ellis has had students complete a project at the Park for each of the last three years. The first two years they built and installed 20 bluebird boxes. She hopes to continue bringing her class to the Park for projects and to help them learn about potential career paths in the field.





Our River has a Beer

Every river has a story and now our river has its own beer—North Fork Golden Ale. On February 22, the Woodstock Brewhouse held an event to celebrate this new partnership and premier this tasty new brew. With music by Foundry Street, the event drew a nice crowd and kickstarted a pairing of local brews and local education and conservation efforts sure to last.

For you beer fanciers, North Fork Golden Ale is a variation on a strong ale (6.7% ABV), with a somewhat hoppy nose (51 IBU). As they describe it: “A full bodied golden strong ale. Brewed with rye, centennial hops, and

Belgian candy sugar. Our Golden Ale has a creamy mouthfeel, a touch of spice, and a mildly fruity nose with a hint of twizzlers.” The beer has received strong endorsements from our executive director and the chair of our board.

Since the event, for every Golden Ale sold, \$1 has been donated to Friends of the North Fork. As Karl Rouston of the Brewhouse mentioned at the celebration, it seemed a natural fit to partner with the Friends of the North Fork. Great beer requires fine water and local support from businesses helps Friends keep the river cleaner.

Volunteers Honored (and always needed!)

At our annual meeting this year, Adam Smith was awarded Field Volunteer of the Year and Lucy Reilley was awarded Office Volunteer of the Year. Adam has been an active Friends volunteer since 2014. He’s a river monitor with Friends of the Shenandoah’s program. He can often be found at Friends river cleanups. At Seven Bends State Park, he helped with a Keep Virginia Beautiful tree planting and led a group of Strasburg Ruritan volunteers in building and installing wood duck boxes. Adam’s initiative and positive attitude have been welcome on Friends projects.

Lucy Reilley has volunteered at Friends since 2016. She has contributed hundreds of hours in the office, helping with data entry, filing, and mailings. As a former school principal, she brings a can-do attitude and effectiveness to her work at Friends.

While Lucy was unable to attend, last year’s Volunteer of the Year Jack Chapman was on hand to celebrate Adam’s contribution to Friends. Both awardees received a one-of-a-kind ceramic river dragon handmade by Education Coordinator Cindy Frenzel.

Volunteers not only make our work happen, they make our work fun. Interested in volunteering? Email fnfsr.org or call 540-459-8550.



Adam Smith and Jack Chapman, two great Friends volunteers at this year’s Annual Meeting.



Friends was thrilled to sign up many new volunteers on Court Square at the Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit Volunteer Day.

New Board Members Share Love for the Area

Friends of the North Fork has always been home to a wide range of people with deep local and even global experience. Our newest group of board members reflect that diversity.

Sally Cowal

Sally Cowal and her husband Robert Muse own Muse Vineyards on the river outside of Woodstock. For her, caring for their grapes, their land, and the larger community naturally includes caring for the river. Her professional career also extends far beyond our region.

Sally currently serves as Senior Vice President, Global Cancer Control, at the American Cancer Society. She helped found the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in Switzerland as well as serving as founder, president and CEO of the Cuba Policy Foundation.

She served as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and has also served as U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, minister counselor for public affairs at the U.S. embassy in Mexico, and counselor for political affairs at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, among other positions.

As we go to print, Sally and Robert are graciously planning to host our 30th Anniversary Celebration at Muse Vineyards.

Marty Hoerr

Marty Hoerr brings to Friends the experience of 35 years in Auburn, Alabama, having worked with multiple nonprofit organizations. She now works with her husband Fred at Veterinary Diagnostic Pathology, LLC, which offers highly specialized services for domestic and international poultry production, processing, and research. "One of the reasons Fred and

I moved to Virginia was to experience four distinct seasons. I look forward to each season with awe and wonder," she said, "I particularly like the slower pace of summer."

After working through a significant remodeling of her Fort Valley home, Marty is excited to now have time to be involved with Friends and help get more children out in nature. "I find all aspects [of our work] exciting; our lecture series, workshops, water cleanups, fundraising, and advocacy. I'm especially excited about our activities that include youth. Family Fun Day is a priority for me," she said. "With collective ideas and action, I hope for continued success keeping the river and surrounding land a beautiful and healthy environment in which to live and for all to enjoy."

Erika Hottle

As a native of the area, Erika Hottle grew up hiking mountains and playing on the river, which she still does often. In fact, she married her husband Kyle Schaeffer in a ceremony on the North Fork so it's no surprise that she's committed to our work. "I'm particularly excited about the river cleanups. It's so awesome to see all those tires out of the river and on the back of a truck!" She also appreciates "the community workshops and the general advocacy for the health of our community's most valuable natural resource."


As co-founder and Director of Information Architecture at Spiritous, a web design consulting firm located in Woodstock, she has seen her company's clientele grow to include Howard University, Booz Allen Hamilton, and the International Criminal Court. She hopes to see Friends experience a growth spurt of its own. "I'd love to see FNFSR grow our local

membership base and promote more river-based learning experiences and educational tools to engage community members and raise awareness about healthy watershed management and the myriad of threats facing our river today," she said. "I think the health of the river is easily taken for granted, and inspiring more awareness for its vulnerability is key for an organization like Friends."

Thanks to our many sponsors!

We're thrilled to have support for our programs this year from the following businesses:

Sprint
Muse Vineyards
Spiritous
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American Woodmark



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Erika Hottle

Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River

John Eckman *Executive Director*
Cindy Frenzel *Education Coordinator*
Concha Mendoza *Operations Manager*

PO Box 746
305 West Court Street
Woodstock, VA 22664

(540) 459-8550

fnfsr.org



FRIENDS OF THE NORTH FORK
of the Shenandoah River



Conservation Photography Takes Us Beneath the Surface



Steven David Johnson lives along the banks of the North Fork west of Broadway. As a conservation photographer and art professor at Eastern Mennonite University, he greatly values his easy access to a world of surprising biodiversity in his front yard. Steve's photos and his "how-to" tips were a big hit with our members at this year's Annual Meeting on March 24 at the Woodstock Presbyterian Church.

