

## Summer Camps Explore Water Above and Below Ground!

Summer Camps, led by Friends Education Coordinator Cindy Frenzel, have received all-time rave reviews. River Players (rising 1st through 3rd grade) and River Rangers (rising 4th through 8th grade) had a great time exploring the North Fork watershed. River Players enjoyed the River at members Joan and Jack Chapman's house and hiked Lion's Tale Trail. Throughout the week, they explored while learning about animals, plants, and water. River Rangers, with leaders Janet Tinkham (Front Royal Grotto) and Meredith Weberg (Battlefield Area Troglodyte Society), had special access from the Department of Conservation and Recreation to enter Ogdens Cave in Frederick County. Inside the cave, our campers discovered underground tunnels and streams and learned how the cave formed.

Janet shared, "What a fun and rewarding day introducing youth to important environmental issues within a karst landscape. We observed above-ground features such as a beautiful spring and a sinkhole. We then discussed the impacts orchards, cattle in streams, and housing developments may have in a limestone region. We discussed the sensitive ecosystems of caves and how the environmental decisions made on the surface may truly impact the precious life existing below. The kids were so excited and had great questions! Hopefully we will see many of them as future geologists and cave biologists!" On the last day of camp, River Rangers canoed, kayaked, and fished through Skyline Canoe Company—a perfect way to culminate a week of learning about the watershed ecosystem.

We are very grateful for all the members, organizations, and individuals who made it possible to have two fantastic weeks of summer camp! Special thanks to:

Shenandoah County Parks and Recreation, Shenandoah River State Park, Skyline Canoe Company, US Forest Service—Lee Ranger District, Daisy Blakely, Jim Blakely, Joan Chapman, Jack Chapman, Stephanie Chapman, Megan Church, Fred Frenzel, Jessica Frenzel, Tom Holland, Kaitlin Mulder, Gabby Osborne, Allyson Ponn, Nadia Rauhala, Steve Shaffer, Linnea Stewart, Janet Tinkham, Kyra Treutlein, and Meredith Weberg

And to these corporate sponsors: Cargill, Carmeuse Lime & Stone, Perry Engineering, Trex Company, and Valley Health—Shenandoah Memorial Hospital

*"My son was in the River Players camp. Thank you to everyone who helps with camp! He had a wonderful time. You all do an amazing job with kids."*

River Players parent



# Summer Interns Jump Right In

This summer we have two very talented and devoted local interns who've added their efforts to a wide array of successful projects, from social media and print media, to educational programming, summer camps, and more.



## Daisy Blakely

Bachelor's of Science in Environmental Studies, Shenandoah University '19

### *What is your interest in our work?*

I am interested in teaching people about the environment as well as the Shenandoah River. I'm from the area, so it's good to know what's going on and to be able to tell others about it.

### *What have you enjoyed most about your internship so far and what are you looking forward to?*

My favorite parts so far were the summer camps, especially the caving and canoeing trips. I'm looking forward to helping develop education materials and a social media plan.

### *Why is conservation/environmental work important to you?*

It's important because, while many people are becoming more knowledgeable about the environment and conservation work, not many people know what's going on. I think it's important to take charge and care of things now.



## Nadia Rauhala

Stonewall Jackson High School '19,  
Liberty University '23

Friends Volunteer of the Year '19

### *What do you plan to major in?*

I plan to major in Elementary Education with an integrated study in Social Sciences.

### *What is your interest in this work?*


My main interest in this work is to protect our environment and teach others to also protect and preserve our Earth. We only have one Earth so together we need to take action on preserving and protecting it so it can stay beautiful and healthy for generations to come.

### *What have you enjoyed most about your internship so far and what are you looking forward to?*

I've most enjoyed both summer camps, specifically kayaking and Lion's Tale Trail. I'm looking forward to continuing my education about the environment.

### *Why is environmental education important to you?*

I believe that we need to get more organizations and people involved with using our resources to save the planet and not destroy it. Being a part of Friends has and is giving me the opportunity to educate children and adults about making an impact for the greater good.



## Make a tax-deductible contribution part of your IRA RMD

Do you have to take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from an IRA? Consider making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your retirement account directly to Friends. QCDs can be counted toward satisfying your RMD for the year and are generally nontaxable, as long as certain rules are met. A QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income, which is unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA and doesn't require that you itemize. Be sure to consult your tax advisor to see if this makes sense for you.

# Record Family Fishing Trip

From June 28th to July 3rd, longtime member and avid fisherman, John Modolo, and his nephews, fished the North Fork. Austin (18), Noah (12), and John floated and fished over 10 miles of the River between Quicksburg Road Bridge and Lupton Bridge. On their "off float" days, they also waded fished the same sections. Along the way, they spotted otter, deer, various turtle species, a Bald Eagle, ducks, Great Blue Herons, Kingfishers, and many beautiful fish.

They caught and released over 400 fish including SM bass, LM bass, Fallfish, Sunfish, and surprisingly, over 40 Rock bass. Austin and Noah—floating their canoe on the 5-mile Red Banks section—caught their boat record of 182 fish in 8.5 hours. They counted and inspected all fish throughout the 5 days, and noted that only a very few had visible health issues. Austin and Noah left for their home in North Carolina anxious to return to the North Fork. John shared, "We hosted a summer fish camp for 10 years, introducing our nieces and nephews over the age of 8 to the beauty of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River. They never seem to forget these special times."





## Caring for Seven Bends State Park

*"Seven Bends State Park's Love sign is constructed of salvaged timbers and beams from the 1800's-era bank barn that was recently torn down due to deteriorating conditions. The sign stands over six feet tall, each letter weighs over 150 lbs., and many of the beams' original hand-crafted features were thoughtfully left intact. The Love sign is erected in the exact location of the barn, and has been further enhanced with landscaping using foundation stones salvaged from the barn. This LOVEworks sign was a perfect vehicle for preserving and showcasing the Park's agricultural history."*

Chief Ranger Thomas Stevens

Fifteen volunteers helped with special projects at Seven Bends State Park on Saturday, June 29th. This was a terrific turnout and lots of good work was accomplished. Volunteers cleared invasive plants, worked on a riverside trail, and laid stones around a LOVEworks sign. The sign is part of an effort across Virginia State Parks, celebrating 50 years of the "Virginia is for Lovers" marketing campaign. The Park is slated to open this fall. The next Park volunteer workday is scheduled for Saturday, August 10th, and the next Seven Bends State Park Committee Meeting will be held Tuesday, August 13th at 5:30pm. To stay informed, join our SBSP email list by emailing friends at [fnfsr.org](mailto:fnfsr.org) or calling 540-459-8550.

### Park Update

The construction crews have nearly completed one parking lot, a vault toilet, and a picnic shelter on the Lupton Road side, and the maintenance building on the South Hollingsworth Road side. Currently being constructed are the hand-carry boat launches with associated parking areas on both sides, and a parking lot, vault toilet, and picnic areas on the South Hollingsworth side.

## Families Enjoy a Day on the River

On June 15th, with the Town of Strasburg, Friends organized a Fish Fry Float for Father's Day. Building on last year's inaugural event, we added river tubing, and more environmental and nature education. Olivia Hilton, the Town of Strasburg Marketing and Events Coordinator said, "We're very happy with the event. We had approximately 350 attendees and we put over 80 people on the River! The biggest hits were the kayaking/tubing, the North Mountain Wildlife Rescue who brought turtles, snakes, and critters, and the kids' activities." Programs were offered throughout the day to teach about ecology and nature discovery. Some of the favorite programs were the Toad Talk, Meet the Bees (with free honey tasting), and a DIY bee house workshop. The date for next year will be June 20, 2020.



*I just want to say thank you so much to everyone who put this on! I LOVED it. We don't have much cash flow right now, so my wife waking me up and surprising me with this was really awesome."*

A participating father

Thank you to these organizations for their event support: Cargill, DuPont Community Credit Union, Lord Fairfax Soil and Water Conservation District, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, Shenandoah County Parks and Recreation, Strasburg Police Department, Trex Company, and Woodbine Farmers Market. And to these volunteers: Mary Baldwin, Elissa and Rick Baskovich, and Adam Smith.

### Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River

David V. Brotman Executive Director  
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**FRIENDS OF THE NORTH FORK**  
of the Shenandoah River



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Stained glass by Lee Jette  
(not available) auctioned in 2015

## Save-the-Date Annual Fish Fry and Auction

Saturday, October 5  
5:30-9:00 PM  
Woodstock Moose Lodge



## David Brotman Joins Friends as Executive Director

David Brotman began work as Executive Director in June. In these early days, he is already introducing fresh ideas and sharing his enthusiasm for further strengthening and expanding Friends' programs. One centerpiece of his efforts focuses on building relationships toward collaborations and informed, deliberate expansion of Friends' work.

David is a native Virginian with a degree from Virginia Tech in biology, and recently returned to the Commonwealth from California where he ran his own successful custom woodworking business. During his time in California, he also trained in conflict resolution and restorative justice. He practiced there with a local youth services center, Centinela Youth Services, and an international mediation group, Mediators Beyond Borders.

The time David spent in the Shenandoah Valley as a boy and young man—camping, hiking, fishing, and canoeing—are at the very roots of his environmental interests. He is a natural public educator, and has taught all age groups in a variety of indoor and outdoor settings. Subjects have included Chesapeake Bay ecology, Wild Edibles, and many more. In Yellowstone NP, he trained citizen scientists in recording field observations. He continues to be a student of our woods, wildlife, and landscapes—including some of the unique and historic cultural heritage sites still scattered through the forests, fields, and waterways of the Valley.

If you've not yet met David, please join us at an event or attend our October 5th Fish Fry and Auction. You can also reach him at 540-252-9545 or [david.brotman@fnfsr.org](mailto:david.brotman@fnfsr.org).

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