Friends of the Rappahannock

25 years

1985-2010

2010 Annual Report

ADVOCACY | RESTORATION | EDUCATION

THE VOICE AND ACTIVE FORCE FOR A HEALTHY AND SCENIC RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER.

***WITHOUT A VOICE** of its own, the Rappahannock is unable to speak against the growing barrage of pollution from developing land, wastewater dischargers, and animal wastes that endanger its health. FOR and its members stand as the voice for the River. At year's end we stand on the cusp of expanding that voice in a major and meaningful way. Since our inception over 25 years ago, we held the goal of actively engaging in issues from the headwaters to the lowest reaches of the Rappahannock estuary. As 2010 closes, we are launching our Tidal Rappahannock River Steward Program, a milestone in our advocacy, restoration and education efforts... along the full length of the Rappahannock.*

advocacy

FROM CRAFTING STORMWATER ORDINANCES TO GRASSROOTS RALLYS FOR LEGISLATION, OUR ADVOCACY PROGRAM SPEAKS FOR A HEALTHY RIVER.

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Cover: Volunteers from FOR, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Deltaville Yachting Center work to install biodegradable coir logs for "living shoreline"

“The health of our waters is the principal measure of how we live on the land.”

ALDO LEOPOLD

restoration

OUR HANDS-ON RESTORATION PROJECTS INVOLVE VOLUNTEERS AND STUDENTS IN MAKING A TANGIBLE DIFFERENCE FOR THE RIVER.

...PAGE 6

education

WE INVEST IN YOUNG PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY ARE THE NEXT STEWARDS OF THE RIVER.

...PAGE 8

ADVOCACY

Advocacy: *noun*. The pursuit of influencing outcomes.
As the advocates for the Rappahannock, our desired outcomes are ultimately seen in the river itself...bountiful crabs and oysters, water that is safe to swim in, and fish that are safe to eat.

Reaching those outcomes means developing influence with a wide variety of stakeholders. We engage farmers, developers, homeowners, and each level of government in our work to stop pollution. The strength of our grassroots support continues to play a major role in our success.

championing a "pollution diet"

Every household needs to work within a budget, and every organism needs to work within a Diet. When we don't, the consequences can be severe. Nowhere has this been more evident than in the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers. Our collective lack of an ability to stick to a pollution diet for the Bay has cost the livelihoods of watermen and a once bountiful seafood industry.

Things began to change dramatically in 2010 as EPA set numerical pollution limits for "the big three": Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Sediment. EPA then required states draining to the Bay to develop plans that define exactly how that pollution diet would be achieved. Working with our partner river groups on the commonwealth's Regulatory Review committee, FOR provided input on the Commonwealth's plan. When the first draft came out very weak in oversight, we helped make it stronger.

"As with the river easement, The Friends of the Rappahannock, played a pivotal role in seeing that the city's River Management Plan recognized recreational uses of the river while not losing site of the goals of river protection."

FREDERICKSBURG CITY COUNCILMAN MATTHEW KELLY

planning for water protection

FOR secured a grant to help the City of Fredericksburg develop a plan for protecting the 31-mile river corridor upstream of its municipal boundaries. With City Council approval we facilitated a 2-year process of public hearings, dialogue, and plan development resulting in final Council approval of the plan at this year's end. The result: a better protected river corridor, and a detailed action plan for next steps. View the Fredericksburg Watershed Property Management Plan on our website. www.riverfriends.org

defending the river easement

THIS YEAR MARKED THE COMPLETION OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG'S RIVER CORRIDOR AND SECOND CHALLENGE TO THE RIVER EASEMENT, SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED BY OUR ADVOCACY.

One of the key recommendations that came out of the planning process was the establishment of 100-meter "safety zones" around the campsites that dot the 31-mile riparian corridor. But certain interests mounted opposition to these zones. After formally completing our role as unbiased facilitators and turning a draft over to the City, we mounted an advocacy effort to ensure that campers would be safe. Now, the Plan specifies that campers at the 3 campsites surrounding the confluence of the Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers will be afforded a buffer from discharge of weapons.

RESTORATION

In preparation for the launch of our downriver expansion initiative, we led two projects to help introduce our restoration programs to the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula.

In addition, we strengthened our partnership with high-schoolers in the upper/middle watershed through our Student Stream Team.

living shoreline

SHORELINES ARE CRITICAL HABITAT FOR THE LITTLE CRITTERS AT THE BASE OF THE AQUATIC FOOD CHAIN. WHEN PEOPLE TURN THE SHORE TO ROCK AND WOOD, THEY LOSE THEIR HOMES. IN THE RIGHT AREAS, "LIVING SHORELINES" ARE THE PERFECT ALTERNATIVE, THEY ARE CHEAPER, NATIVE, AND MAKE GREAT HABITAT.

Two dozen volunteers helped us install a living shoreline demonstration project along an eroding shore at the Deltaville Yachting Center. The first of many projects for our new downriver programs!

bioretention (rain gardens)

PARKING LOTS DO A LOT MORE THAN PARK VEHICLES. THEY CATCH THE DRIPS OF OIL, ANTIFREEZE, TOXIC BRAKE DUST, TRANSMISSION FLUID, AND AIRBORNE POLLUTANTS FROM MILES AWAY. WHEN IT RAINS, THIS TOXIC BREW HEADS STRAIGHT TO OUR WATERWAYS...UNLESS IT'S INTERCEPTED.

We constructed four large bioretention cells this year at the Lancaster Primary School and the elementary students took part in the plantings. The biofilters treat runoff from the bus parking lot.

"Friends of the Rappahannock is a friendly, enthusiastic, and generous group of volunteers whose focus is preserving and providing education related to the Rappahannock River. We could not have completed our Living Shoreline project this year without them!"

ONNA & LEW GRIMM
DYC MARINA

oyster reef restoration

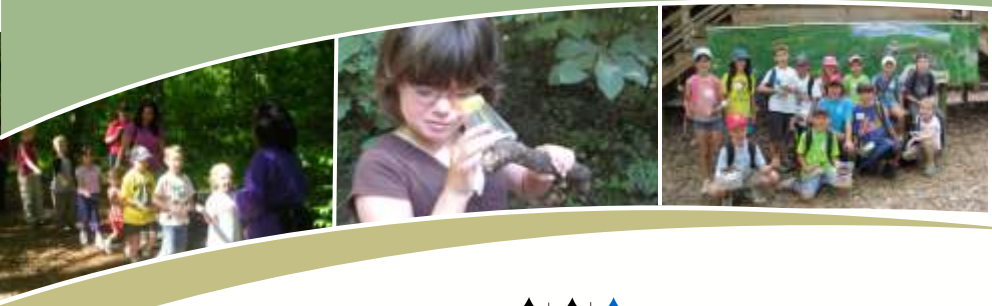
OYSTERS FILTER THE RIVER, REMOVING ALGAE THAT IS THE CAUSE OF "DEAD ZONES" IN THE LOWER RAPPAHANNOCK.

FOR partnered with the Christchurch School in Urbanna to support their Oyster Restoration initiative. In 2010, the program distributed 20,000 seed oysters to the community for others to start oyster garden projects. The students also planted 500,000 "spat on shell" oysters in the Rappahannock River. A second reef site has been initiated at the mouth of Urbanna Creek. This is an exceptional service-learning project where students throughout the entire school help raise restoration funds by recycling cans –one recycled can equals one planted oyster!

student stream team

GETTIING KIDS INVOLVED IN HANDS-ON CONSERVATION MAKES LIFE-LONG STEWARDS

Our Student Stream Team (students from Colonial Forge High School), planted 300 trees along a headwater stream. This project focused on preventing erosion, filtering polluted runoff from livestock fields, and creating valuable habitat for wildlife. Additionally, community volunteers helped FOR staff plant 80 trees to re-establish native trees along a riparian buffer on the Rappahannock near our headquarters office.



EDUCATION

Every day during the warmer months, busloads of children arrive at our riverfront preserve to learn first hand what makes this river so valuable, and what they can do to protect it.

"We only protect what we love, we only love what we understand, and we only understand what we are taught." **Baba Dioum**

at the river's edge

WE FOCUS ON GETTING KIDS OUT OF THE CLASSROOM TO EXPERIENCE THE RIVER ECOSYSTEM FIRST HAND.

5,800 youth participated in our environmental field trip programs. This is a *72% increase* from 2009. Our new Education Director worked steadily to increase the reach of our programs and engaged new populations in outdoor education. We served 9 different school districts and 72 schools (public, private, homeschool, daycare) a *24% increase*!

"We had a wonderful day of science! Since our trip, we have brought what we saw, learned, etc. on our trip into our science lessons and discussions. I am looking forward to seeing you again next year."

TEACHER COMMENT

summer camps

"NATURE DEFICIT DISORDER" IS THE TERM COINED FOR THE MANY EFFECTS OF A CHILDHOOD WITHOUT EXPOSURE TO THE OUTDOORS: CHILDHOOD OBESITY, LACK OF THE "EXPLORER INSTINCT", AND AN INABILITY TO FIND WAYS TO KEEP THEMSELVES OCCUPIED ARE ALL MANIFESTATIONS.

Our summer camps expose kids to the outdoors providing building blocks to help them develop skills to become explorers, lovers of nature, and ultimately, stewards. 30 students joined us at the FOR nature preserve along the river for intensive, weeklong day camps.

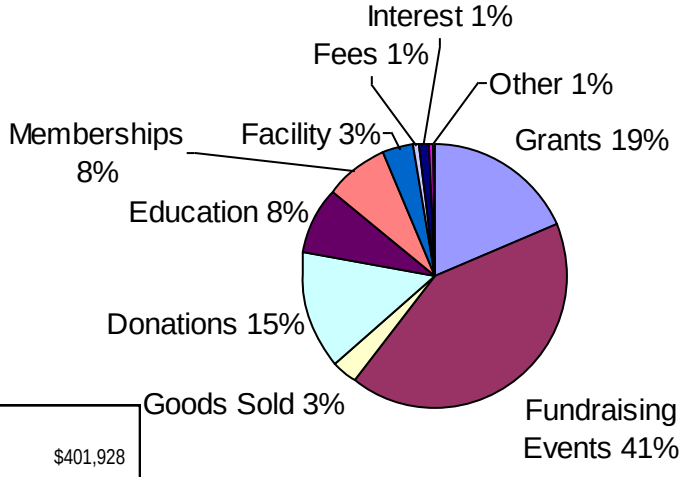
get the dirt out

MANY EYES WORKING TOGETHER MAKE LIGHTER WORK FOR UNDERFUNDED LOCAL GOVERNMENT EROSION AND SEDIMENTS CONTROL INSPECTION DEPARTMENTS.

We trained community volunteers to be eyes and ears in the field. We use "Google Earth" technology to pinpoint locations and forward them on to the local government for enforcement.

FINANCIALS

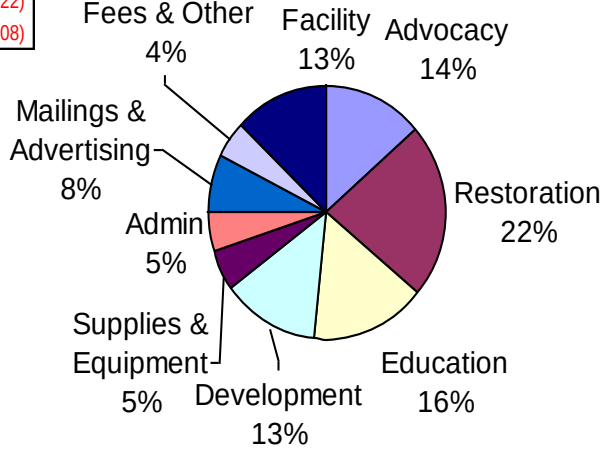
Income



2010 Financial Summary	
Income	$401,928
Expense	($490,797)
Net deferred revenue from 2009	$152,782
Net deferred revenue to 2010	($135,122)
Net income	($71,208)

* Based on preliminary unaudited statements. Full financial statements and audits are available upon request by calling our office at 540-373-3448.

Expense



Why do I volunteer at FOR? Because it's Fun! I get to work with a group of young and dedicated people who are focused on things that I think are important."

JANET WRIGHT
MEMBER & VOLUNTEER

legacy society

WE HONOR ANYONE WHO INCLUDES FRIENDS OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK IN THEIR WILL AS MEMBERS OF THE LEGACY SOCIETY

The Rappahannock Legacy Society is a special group of friends who have made a commitment to defend and preserve the river through their estate plan. When you meet with your attorney or financial planner, consider creating a lasting legacy to benefit this and future generations. Jim Steele became a member this year stating, *"That river will be here a whole lot longer than I will, so I'd like to protect it."*

membership

WE DEPEND ON MEMBERS NOT ONLY FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT, BUT ALSO TO SHOW HOW MUCH OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORTS A HEALTHY RIVER.

Stephanie Sloan choose to set up a monthly payment for her membership stating, "I made a commitment to local charities to support our City. FOR is one I believe in because they are cleaning up the river and our environment and I support it wholeheartedly. The most convenient way for me to do this is through my bank. The donation is processed monthly and I don't have to worry about writing a check, an envelope or posting a stamp." You can set up your "paperless" monthly sustainer membership online at www.riverfriends.org.

Major Contributors

Alan & Kim Weakley
American Canoe Association
Anderson Oil & Propane
Angus & Barbara Muir
Anheuser Busch/JF Fick
Beth & John Elkins
Bill and Denise Micks
Billy & Alma Withers
Birchwood Power Partners
Black Marsh Farm
Breg Environmental
Brian Dillistin
Businets
Charles & Lee Rowe
Chesapeake Bay License Plate Fund
Clayton Calvert
Colonial Circuits, Inc.
Creative Color Printing
Cynthia Flynn Guill
David & Dawn Little
Don & Bev Newlin
Doug & Susan Tait
Enos & Mary Ellen Richardson
Frank Pacello
Fredericksburg Distributing Co.
Fredericksburg Savings Charitable Foundation
Goodloe Asphalt, LC
Hugh & Renna Cosner
Jim & Lorie McCown
John & Leslie Leahy
Keith Campbell Foundation
Kodak/The Conservation Fund
Marstel-Day, LLC
Martha Embrey
Merrill Foundation
Michael Mastropaolo
Mike & Claire Huie
Old Dominion Smallmouth Club
Rappahannock Electric Cooperative
Rebecca Hanmer
REI of Fairfax
Rosner Automotive Group
Scott Olsen & Sandra Grossett
Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center
Steve & Helen Sanders
Strickland Kurylo Law Firm
Sullivan Donahoe & Ingalls
The Comcast Foundation
The Hoffman Agency, Inc.
Thomas Savage
Tom & Susan Hunt
Ukrops Endowment Fund
Union First Market Bank
URS Corporation-EG&G Division
Virginia Commerce Bank
Virginia Dominion Power Foundation
Virginia Environmental Endowment
Virginia Outdoor Center
Virginia Partners Bank
Virginia Paving Company
Vulcan Materials Co
Wal-Mart Store Central Park
Weber & Edward Taylor
WFLS
William and Donna Elliott

Giving Circles

$5,000

Tracy & Jack Houck

$1,000

Ed Sharp
Rebecca Hanmer
Rich & Rennie McDaniel
Scott Olsen & Sandy Grossett

$500

Bob & Deby Wulff
Billy & Alma Withers
Charlie G & Mary Wynn McDaniel
Mike & Nancy Cherwek
Tommy & Kim Mitchell
Tom Van Arsdall

Legacy Society

Anne & Carl Little
Bill & Denise Micks
Ed Sharp
Kandy & Charlie Hilliard
Jim Steele
Joella & Michael Killian
Tom Van Arsdall

Memorials

Ben Honaker
Jessica Bungard
Maureen Sydnor
Ronnie Lane

Working together for a healthy and scenic Rappahannock River.

FOR Friends-of-the RAPPAHANNOCK

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