



Friends of the Rappahannock

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

*FROM THE
HEADWATERS
TO THE BAY...*

Our mission is to be the voice and active force for a healthy and scenic Rappahannock River.

OUR VISION

A Rappahannock River

...that is clean and safe for fish consumption and recreation from its Headwaters to its confluence with the Chesapeake.

...that supports a healthy and diverse aquatic ecosystem, with submerged grasses, oysters, crabs, brook trout and other species returned to their historic levels and productivity.

A Rappahannock River Watershed

...where land use and runoff is managed to protect and enhance our riparian habitats, downstream waters, scenic viewsheds and historical resources.

A Rappahannock River Community

... where the citizens and local governments are educated about river stewardship, where they take a sense of personal stewardship over the river resource, and where they take action in their own backyards and communities to protect it.



Interpretive Paddles



Clean Ups



Outdoor Learning Labs



At Home Riverfest



Tree Plantings



Oyster Recycling

Dear River Friends,

What a year it's been! Throughout my time at Friends of the Rappahannock, I have admired our community's commitment to our mission to be the voice and active force for a healthy and scenic river. However, 2020 revealed a perseverance and dedication to the Rappahannock River that I have not seen before. While the world shut down our staff, volunteers, donors and community rallied around the river to advocate for and preserve its health and beauty. Our river proved its worth as a treasure enjoyed by many.

It's because of YOU that Friends of the Rappahannock is able to speak for the river.

The successes from the past year are a result of relentless optimism. In 2020, we discovered new ways to reach our community through virtual mediums. We celebrated the passing of the fracking ban in the General Assembly. Educational programming gained new life by providing take home educational materials, virtual field trips, and even socially distanced summer camps. We opened a headwaters office in Culpeper and reinvigorated the River Steward program. Our river stewards worked with our community to host tree giveaways, while sharing how the public can access the river safely. We even succeeded in hosting a virtual Riverfest throughout our watershed.

While last year's accomplishments are impressive, I am excited by the many opportunities available to us this year. We plan to initiate a River Ambassador program, which will allow for more community outreach about river safety, protection and access. We will be expanding our educational programming throughout the watershed and celebrating the lower Rappahannock Scenic River designation.

Just as in years past, Friends of the Rappahannock will continue moving FORWARD as the voice and active force for the Rappahannock River.



For the River,
Daria Christian

Executive Director

2020 PROJECTS

and PROGRAMS



Fredericksburg, VA



* The Fredericksburg region completed 15 volunteer clean-ups.



Fredericksburg, VA



Simonson, VA



Fredericksburg, VA

- TRASH CLEAN UPS
- OYSTER RESTORATION
- TREE GIVEAWAYS
- RIPARIAN BUFFER PLANTINGS
- INTERPRETIVE PADDLES
- EDUCATION PROGRAMMING
- CITIES



Syria, VA



Goldvein, VA



Fredericksburg, VA



Urbanna, VA

ADVOCACY IN 2020

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice in the Rappahannock Watershed

We believe that it takes a watershed to make a difference. The more people in our community who have access to the river, better understand the treasure that is, and know how to care for it, the better we can achieve a healthy and scenic Rappahannock River. This past year, we continued to work with our partners to increase public access opportunities, especially in the Upper Rappahannock River.

In the year ahead, we look forward to increasing our partnerships with diverse community organizations. We know our ability to reach a broad audience is as strong as our partnerships, and we are grateful for the many organizations who join us in serving the Rappahannock River watershed. Our Nuestro Rappahannock program, which provides river safety and environmental conservation to the Latino community, continues to grow. This will be the first year we have River Ambassadors who are fluent in Spanish and able to lead river clean ups and interpretive trips in Spanish.

There are many underserved communities who live in our watershed, and we are continuing to prioritize a variety of programs that address limited access to the river, river safety and conservation education, and access to funds that address both river health and public health issues.



Fredericksburg, VA



Morattico, VA



Culpeper, VA

Achieving Scenic River Status



Fones Cliffs



Fredericksburg, VA

The Rappahannock has held the Scenic River Designation from Chester Gap to the Ferry Farm bridge in Fredericksburg since 1985. This designation acknowledges the importance of the Rappahannock's natural, historic, scenic and recreational value. This past year, Friends of the Rappahannock has partnered with localities and conservation partners in the middle and lower Rappahannock River basin to advocate for the lower Rappahannock to receive the same Scenic River Designation. This stretch includes thousands of acres of conserved lands, scenic vistas as well as important ecology and habitat at the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Belle Isle State Park, the iconic Fones Cliffs, and more.

As of February 2021, the Virginia General Assembly has accepted the designation to the county border at Simonson, Virginia. This is an additional seventy-nine miles of scenic designation being added to the previous eighty-six miles totalling up to 165 statute miles. This is a significant addition and Friends of the Rappahannock will continue to advocate for Scenic River designation in the remaining section of the Rappahannock.

2021 Advocacy Goals

- Advocate with the Choose Clean Water Coalition for full funding of \$15 million for the new ChesapeakeWILD grant program and \$90.5 million for the Chesapeake Bay Program.
- Work with the our Healthy Rivers Initiative partnership to to secure essential funding for water quality programs, environmental literacy, and public recreation.
- Work with the Virginia Conservation Network (VCN) and Rappahannock River Basin Commission to build comprehensive strategies for coastal resilience into multiple regulatory and legislative updates at the General Assembly and state agencies.
- Work with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) and local partners to expand public river access on the Upper Rappahannock River Water Trail and Rapidan River Blueway.

These are just few goals FOR hopes to accomplish in 2021.

RESTORATION IN 2020

Supporting Rappahannock Oysters

The Rappahannock River and the Chesapeake Bay support a vibrant seafood industry. While oysters from the Rappahannock River are enjoyed by many for their delicious flavor, they also play a key role in the Rappahannock.

Oysters improve water quality by naturally filtering pollutants. Some oysters are able to filter up to 50 gallons of water in a single day. In addition to filtering water, oysters provide essential habitat for many aquatic species and contribute to the overall health of the Chesapeake Bay.

At FOR, we restore oyster reefs by returning recycled oyster shell to the river. Young oysters seek out other oyster shell and hard substrate to latch onto to continue growing. To restore oyster reefs, we partner with a variety of businesses and individuals working in the oyster industry. Through our partnerships, we are able to recycle thousands of oyster shells each year. Working together, we are able to restore areas in the creeks that oyster growers work in and improve the health of the Rappahannock River watershed for everyone.



We found ways to support our partners overcoming challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. With permission from our grant funders to adjust our project timeline, we were able to contract these oyster companies earlier than expected to assist in our reef restoration projects. This put over \$30,000 in the hands of these companies at the height of the pandemic. This investment helped keep waterman working and restored over 4.5 acres of oyster reef.

We collaborated with oyster growers by finding creative ways to support their business. Rogue Oysters shares, "Our farm might not still exist if FOR wasn't creative about opportunities to serve their mission while supporting the industry -- hosting oyster pop-ups; sponsoring reef projects and oyster Shellebrations; and feeding volunteers with oysters."

2020 Restoration Highlights

- The Coastal Forestry and Headwater Stream Initiative programs reached new heights. We worked with countless partners to plant over 38,300 trees to protect water quality and provide habitat for fish and wildlife.
- Provided over \$200,000 for 0% interest loans to agricultural producers for livestock exclusion fencing and other conservation best management practices.
- Provided GIS and technical support services for conservation planning and prioritization with the American Farmland Trust and Northern Neck Land Conservancy.



2021 Goals

- Plant 20,000 trees for Riparian Buffers
- Install 1 mile of livestock inclusion fencing
- Implement 3 Green infrastructure projects to assist with urban & suburban runoff

October Greenfield
Upper Rappahannock River Steward

Fauquier County
Rappahannock County
Culpeper County



2021 Goals

- Plant 5,000 trees for coastal & urban forests
- Remove 10,000 lbs of trash during volunteer clean ups
- Implement 10 Green infrastructure projects to assist with urban & suburban runoff

Adam Lynch
Middle River Steward

City of Fredericksburg
Stafford County



2021 Goals

- Plant 5,000 trees for coastal & urban forests
- Remove 10,000 lbs of trash during volunteer clean ups
- Implement 10 Green infrastructure projects to assist with urban & suburban runoff

Brent Hunsinger
Middle River Steward

King George County
Spotsylvania County
Caroline County



2021 Goals

- Plant 20,000 trees to improve coastal forests
- Restore 5 acres of oyster reef with local watermen and growers
- Stabilize 3,000 linear feet of shoreline using natural living shoreline techniques

Anne Self
Lower Rappahannock River Steward

Essex County
Richmond County
Lancaster County
Middlesex County
Westmoreland County

EDUCATION IN 2020

River Education with a Twist

Becoming a river steward is a lifelong adventure that often begins with an interaction with one of Friends of the Rappahannock's educators. In years past, this has meant having thousands of students attend field trips and summer camps on the 17 acre FOR maintained nature preserve. This year it meant virtual classroom visits, take home science kits, and socially distanced outdoor activities.

When COVID-19 caused schools to turn to virtual education, FOR educators jumped right in to provide as much support and materials as possible. We turned our usual river side lessons into videos and virtual field trips that made learning STEM and Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEE) a breeze. We designed downloadable coloring books with native Rappahannock fish, birds, animals and plants and provided resources on how to identify wildlife on walks in your parks and neighborhood. We created take home science kits for families and students to do water quality testing in their own backyard streams. These programs allowed our educators to support families throughout virtual and hybrid learning throughout the year.

The summer floated by as FOR educators adjusted the summer camp programming to a half day camp following all guidelines set in place by the governor and the American Camp Association's Camp Field Guide. Campers would spend 3 hours every morning paddling kayaks, tubing, or participating in other river activities. In 2021, our educators hope to have more of this style of summer camp in our headwaters and tidal regions as well as at FOR's headquarters.

In addition to the extra resources & materials, FOR educators came up with an alternative to the field trips many of our students craved. Outdoor Learning Labs allowed a small group of students to join FOR educators in STEM or MWEE programming at the FOR headquarters. For a couple hours, one day a week, students learned about macroinvertebrates, erosion, water current and even how to paddle a kayak. Some weeks were spinoffs of FOR's regular field trips like The Jamestown Settlement survival and Hydropower (building waterwheels). Other weeks featured completely new subject matter like Bird Watching Through Citizen Science and Primitive Fire Building Methods with S'mores.

COVID-19 caused us to adapt the way we approached educating our young river stewards this year. However this adaptation sparked our education programming to provide innovative online products, new programs, and new ways to reach families which make it a positive experience for all our developing river stewards.



Outdoor Learning Lab



Summer Camp



FOR's Environmental Educators

2021 Education Goals

In 2021 FOR hopes to accomplish the following goals to expand our education programs:

- Hire one full time educator in the Culpeper office.
- Hire two part time educators, one in the Tappahannock office and one in the Culpeper office.
- Permanently fund underserved youth education and recreation programs in ALL Friends of the Rappahannock offices.
- Develop summer programming in headwaters and tidal offices.
- Get field trips up and running again!

THANK YOU, DONORS

LIFETIME MEMBERS

*2021 NEW LIFETIME MEMBER

\$5,000 PLUS

The Charles Rowe Foundation
The Cliff Miller Foundation

\$1,000-\$4,999

Devena and Donovan McLaurine
Donald Caswell
Edward Sharp
Jami and David Daniel
John Fick
John and Joanna Reynolds
Kathryn and Matthew Dumont
Luke McCormack
Marie Gozzi
Rappahannock Rotary Club
Rennie & Richmond McDaniel
Ruth Delaney
Scott Eliff & Ducard Vineyards
Veronica Kelly and Daniel Wack

\$500-\$999

Alice & Hill Wellford
Ben & Leslie Raterman
Beverly Shultz
Carolyn Coble
Catherine & Ben Hicks
Charles & Patricia McDaniel
Gary and Christina Gemmill
Jeffrey Wright
John Frischkorn
Kent & Sharon Farmer
Laurel Fensterer
Lee Stone & Ruth Landry-Stone
Linda & Robert Chaney, Jr
Lisa Mountcastle
Lynne Kaye
Mildred & Sebastian Vittoria
Mary Ellen Wheeler
Patrick Gould

Phillip & Virginia Sasser
Rebecca Hanmer
Robert Barr & Hilary Stebbins
Ronald & Susan Bishop
Stephen & Linda Spratt
Tac & Linda Tacelosky Green
Tamara & Christopher Muldrow
Thomas Miller

\$250-\$499

Chastaine and Lawrence Perry
Diana Almy
Emma Harrison
Judith Muffley
Rebecca Lawson
Robert and Mary Gramann
William and Elizabeth Livingston

The Adler Family Fund*
Alan & Kim Weakley
Alan Vorhees
Alfred & Mary Jane King
Anita Crotts
Amy & Paul Goodall
Anne Beals
Barbara G. Fant
Bayley & Joan Silleck
Becky & Dan Gahr
Bess Turk
Beth Elkins
Beverly G. King
Bill & Denise Micks
Billy & Alma Withers
Birchwood Power Partners
Bob & Chay DeBlasi
Bobby & Brenda Pemberton
Brian Dillistin
Candra Kiehna
Charles & Mary Wynn McDaniel
Chris & Tamara Muldrow
Clay Calvert & Mary Becelia
Foundation*
Curtis G. Meyer
David & Susan Morgan
Don & Bev Newlin
Donald Caswell*
Dovetail Cultural Resources
Edith Lohman
Edward J. Sharp
Ellen Jarrell
Enos & Ellen Richardson
Flo Snider
Franklin W. Coates
Gabe Burton & Ryerson Potter

Gary & Tooie Garber
George & Charmaine Sofis
Gilbert & Judy Shelton Glenna
Shifflett
Greg & Carrie Szlyk
Howard & Mary Owen
Hugh & Renna Cosner
Intuit
Jami Daniel & David Daniel
Jerry & Sandra Nini
Jennifer & Karl Gron
Jim & Denise Ramsbotham
Jim Steele
Joanna Reynolds
John Fick*
John & Penny Wack
John P. Tippett
Jon & Maggie Van Zandt
Josiah Rowe
Justin & Jamie Thacker — PBM
Karen Snavely
Keith Homza
Kitty Farley & Vic Ramonida
Larry & Marjorie Glassco
Mary Ellen Wheeler
Melissa & Michael Zubick
Michael & Joyce Childress
Michael & Karen Crane
Michael & Nancy Cherwek
Michael J. Mastropaolo
Mike & Christina Logan
Mike Blashford
Nick & Jeanette Cadwallender
Orion Enterprises —
James Ramsbotham
Patricia L. Corbett
Patrick & Suzanne Taylor

R. Thomas Van Arsdall
Ray & Kay Pollock
Raymond J. Polcha Rebecca
Hanmer
Richmond McDaniel
Rita Van Arsdall
Robert Annes
Rosner Toyota of Fredericksburg
Rufus Harris
Rusty Dennen
Ruth Fitzgerald
Sam & Tricia Foltz —
Foltz & Associates CPA
Sam & Viola Mason
Sandra Grosset —
OD & Eyes in the BUrg
John Warner
Seth Craig & Marcia Keener
Steve King & Cathy Wack
Summit Asset Management LLC
Susan & Charles Titus
Susan Doepp
Tara Foundation Inc.
The Charles Rowe
Family Foundation
The Hoffman Family
The McCormack Family*
The Ruppert Family
Thomas J. Wack & Ann Sears
Thomas P. Erhard
Tom & Ann Smith
Tom & Julie Duggan
Tommy & Kim Mitchell
Tracy & Jack Houck
Troy Durocher
Waring Tribble
Weber & Edward Taylor

Many hundreds of people, too numerous to list in this report gave generously up to \$250. Thank you.



For 29 years, Rappahannock Riverfest was an opportunity for our community to gather and celebrate together what had been accomplished for the river.

This past year, instead of a 1400 person party, volunteers helped to distribute crab feasts throughout the watershed. Close families and friends gathered in their backyards to recognize the amazing work done to preserve and care for the Rappahannock River. It may not have been a normal Riverfest, but it was certainly one of the more memorable.

Gifts made in memory of...

Ricky Sears - Richard Snow - Richard Burke - Jessica Parker
Roy Stanley - Gilbert Brittle - Dr. James Israel

FOR 36 years these individuals have supported Friends of the Rappahannock. Many have made legacy gifts that will continue our work into the future. Please consider joining them in making a charitable contribution to the Friends of the Rappahannock.

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS

Thousands of volunteer hours were served in 2020. Volunteers helped plant trees, clean up trash, dump oyster shells and helped make the river a better place for everyone. Thank you volunteers!



2019 FINANCIALS

THANK YOU, GRANT FUNDERS

Arnold & Bette Hoffman Family
Foundation of TGCCF
Arbor Day Foundation
Campbell Foundation
Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund
Chesapeake Bay Trust
Community Foundation
for a Greater Richmond
Culpeper Foundation Fund
David Morgan Fund
Dominion Foundation
Dun Foundation
Fund of Rennie & Richmond McDaniel
Land Trust Alliance
Matthew & Genevieve Mezzanotte Foundation
Meade M. Palmer Memorial Fund
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
National Oceanic & Atmospheric
Administration
National Wildlife Federation
Northern Piedmont Community Foundation

Patagonia
PATH Foundation
Patricia and Nicolaas Kortlandt Fund
PEC Krebser Fund for Rappahannock
County Conservation
PNC Grow Up Great
Rappahannock Electric Cooperative
Rappahannock River Region
Community Foundation
Richard Lyckes Community Fund
River Counties Community Foundation
Tullidge Family Fund
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Virginia Department of Forestry
VA Department of Environmental Quality
Virginia Environmental Endowment





2021 Executive Committee

Sam Foltz
Chair

Andrew Dolby
Vice Chair

Veronica Kelly
Secretary

Lee Pugh
Treasurer

AT LARGE

April Peterson

Ben Raterman

Berkley Mitchell

Brad Lamphere

Cynthia Lucero-Chavez

Tamara Muldrow

Rand Sompayrac

Robin Huddle

Wilson Greenlaw

Zeke Moore

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Daria Christian

Executive Director

Bryan Hofmann

Deputy Director

*From the headwaters to the bay,
the voice and active force
for a healthy and scenic
Rappahannock River*

Friends of the Rappahannock
3219 Fall Hill Avenue
Fredericksburg, VA 22401