



Friends of the Rappahannock

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**FROM THE
HEADWATERS
TO THE BAY...**

OUR MISSION

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, freshwater mussels, 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.

2023 Board of Directors

Andrew Dolby - Chair

Lee Pugh - Vice Chair

April Peterson - Secretary

Tamara Muldrow - Treasurer

Ben Raterman

Berkley Mitchell

Brad Lamphere

Chris Stec

Cynthia Lucero-Chavez

Molly Flurry

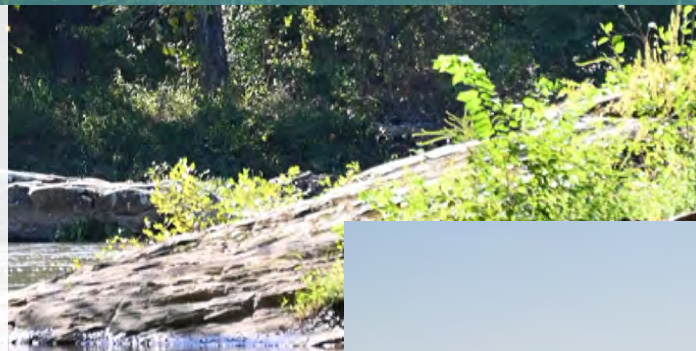
Robin Huddle

Taryn Brice-Rowland

Veronica Kelly

Wilson Greenlaw

Zeke Moore



Dear River Friends,

This year was like a breath of fresh river air. Seeing events sell out, volunteers connecting, filling up river education programs and Rappahannock River lovers from a variety of backgrounds joining back together in 2022 makes me inspired for 2023! From the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Chesapeake Bay, we deepened our restoration and education programs to further our goal of a healthy, scenic and accessible river for generations after us to enjoy.

The Rappahannock River is a resource for everyone, and this year we focused on educating community members and providing safe ways to experience this amazing resource. By making the river more accessible through two new public access sites on the Rappahannock River Water Trail in Fauquier County (Remington and Rodgers Ford) and working with partners to offer multilingual river safety and education programs, we brought more people to the river. Because a healthy river is our mission, it is important to recognize the role the river plays in human health and ensure human activity does not diminish the well-being of the river. We believe in the opportunity for education in conjunction with accessibility.

Staff across the watershed exited the year fulfilled after an action packed 2022! Our headwaters office exceeded tree planting goals, filled up weeks of summer camp, and hosted education and outreach events in the community. In the middle Rappahannock we brought Riverfest back in person, got to host cleanups with amazing partners, filled up our field trip slots and broke ground on impactful education programs with Stafford and Fredericksburg schools and teachers. Further down the river in tidal waters, our oyster restoration program strengthened through lasting partnership and boots on the ground conservation, students paddled the river for the first time with our educators and our shorelines continued to be restored.

This past year we grew our staff to a strong twenty-six person team serving the entire Rappahannock River watershed, and I couldn't be more proud of what they have accomplished. I can't wait to see our programs continue to grow in 2023. We have some big goals, such as restoring approximately one million oysters in our reefs, planting over fifty thousand trees throughout our watershed, continuing to advocate for clean water policy, expanding our education programs and more.

Thank you for the continued support from our local communities, volunteers, donors and river friends that share our passion for the river and our mission to be the voice and active force for a healthy and scenic Rappahannock River and all its tributaries. It's because of you that we are able to continue our work for the river and reach these goals.

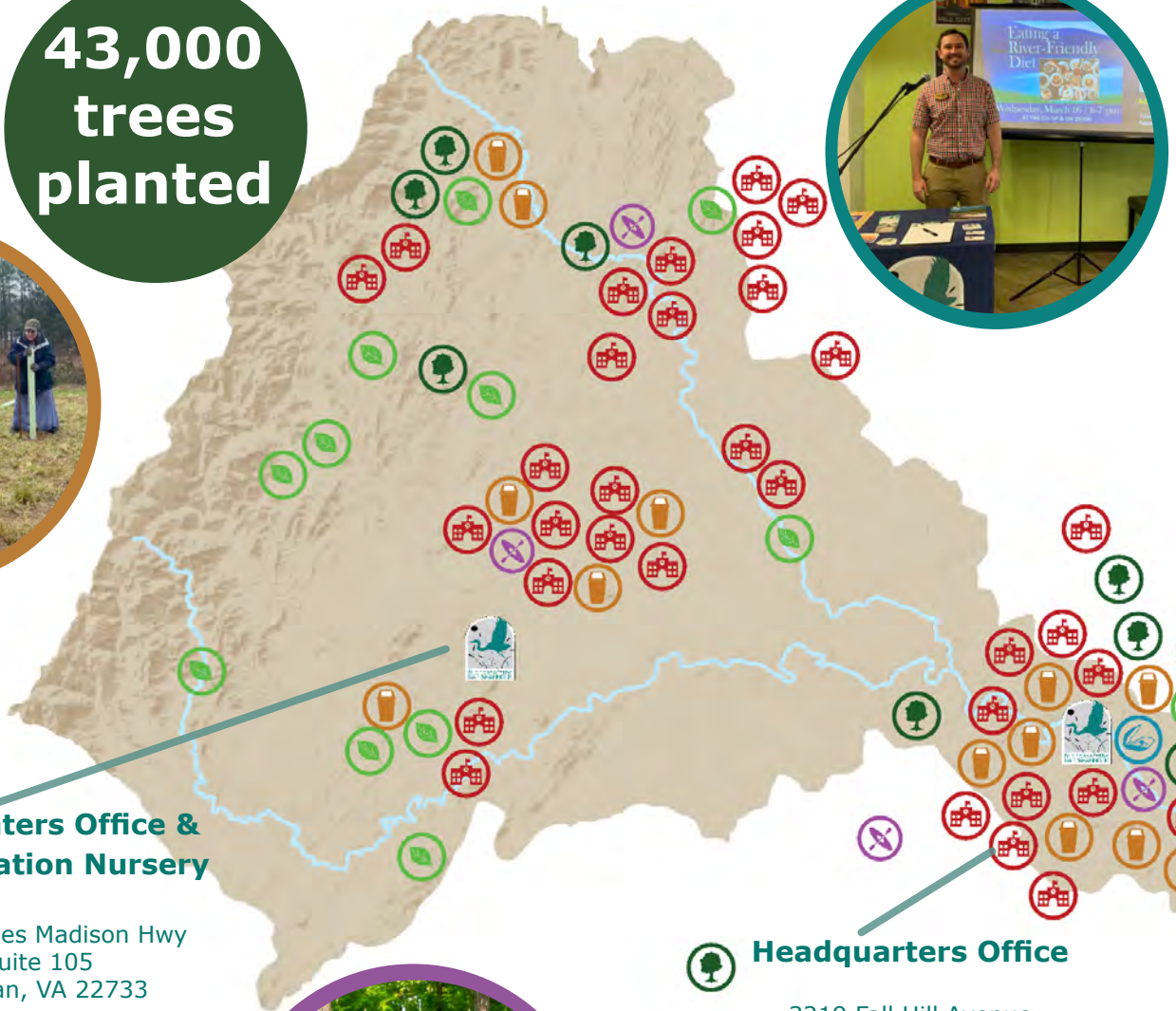
For the River,



Daria Christian
Executive Director



**43,000
trees
planted**



**Headwaters Office &
Conservation Nursery**

9432 James Madison Hwy
Suite 105
Rapidan, VA 22733

540-287-0226 ext 300



Headquarters Office

3219 Fall Hill Avenue
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

540-373-3448



**7,000+
students
participated in
education
programs or
field trips**



2022 Programs & Projects

W A T E R S H E D W I D E

2,200
gallons of
rainwater
harvesting
systems
installed



-  LIVING SHORELINES
-  TRASH CLEAN UPS
-  OYSTER RESTORATION
-  TREE GIVEAWAYS
-  RIPARIAN BUFFER PLANTINGS
-  INTERPRETIVE PADDLES
-  EDUCATION PROGRAMMING
-  FOR OFFICE

**Recycled
approximately
116 bushels
of oyster shell
for oyster
restoration**



Tidal Office

531 N. Church Ln, Office B
Tappahannock, VA 22560

804-443-3448



ADVOCAT



Connecting Over the Rappahannock

For the second year in a row, FOR supported the Rappahannock River Symposium hosted by the Rappahannock River Roundtable! This premier event showcases research, conservation efforts, education programs, and success stories from partners across the Rappahannock River Watershed. Over 100 attendees from 50 organizations came together for the symposium, including local government staff, state and federal natural resource agencies, land trusts, university researchers, conservation volunteers like tree stewards and master naturalists, non-profit partners, FOR board members, and more!

Environmental Education General Assembly Win!

In 2022 FOR and its partners advocated for establishing two state level positions to focus on coordinating and supporting environmental education. These were intended to replace the four positions that were lost when the Virginia Office of Environmental Education was closed several years ago due to budget constraints. The positions were funded and will focus on creating and implementing a statewide environmental literacy plan that goes beyond K-12 education. This is a huge win for Virginia and the Rappahannock River!



2023 Advocacy Goals

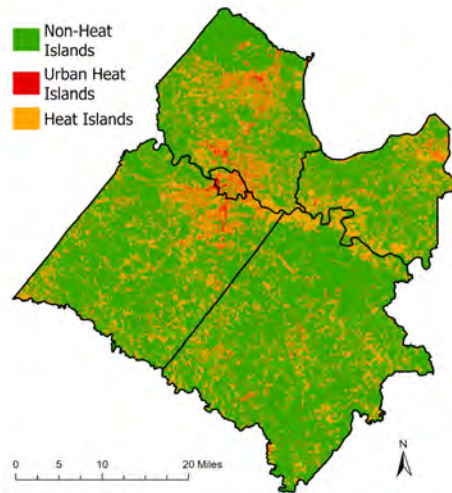
- 1,000 volunteers supporting projects across the watershed
- Update and release a new water trail map that features new public river access on the Upper Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers
- Work with localities to ensure they have ordinances in place for proper siting & mitigation of emerging industrial land uses and that their effects from surface water withdrawals from the river are addressed through a comprehensive river basin wide water supply planning process
- Work with tidal localities and homeowners to create a comprehensive digital database and clearinghouse for shoreline management practices
- Work with localities and partners to increase urban tree canopy ordinances and regulations to combat the urban heat island effects

ING

Urban Heat Study

Urban Heat Island—the phenomenon that causes localized increases in heat due to high concentrations of impervious surfaces—is an understudied and poorly understood contributor to water pollution.

In 2022, FOR partnered with the George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC), the University of Mary Washington and the Virginia Department of Forestry to perform an analysis of urban heat islands in the greater Fredericksburg area. The study included a combination of volunteer field sampling and satellite image analysis, and found that highly urbanized areas can result in up to 17 degree increases in air temperature relative to nearby forests. These heat islands can have water quality effects on local streams, reducing dissolved oxygen concentrations and stressing aquatic ecosystems. In 2023, FOR will continue to work alongside partners like GWRC to implement policy and regulations to address urban heat islands in our area.



RIVERFEST 2022!

The 32nd Annual Riverfest party by the river was one for the books! After two years of celebrating virtually, we were finally back together enjoying crabs, drinks, friends and the gorgeous Rappahannock River. This year we transitioned Riverfest into a green event with all compostable utensils and cups, reusable options and composting our food and waste materials.

Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers and supporters who made Riverfest possible!

1200
GUESTS

88
SPONSORS

60
BUSHELS OF CRABS

2,200
LBS OF WASTE
COMPOSTED

FOR OUR

RIVER

Revitalizing Oyster Reefs

In 2022 FOR received historic new funding to establish the Rappahannock River Oyster Restoration Partnership program. This partnership continues existing partnerships in Urbanna Creek (Restore Urbanna Creek) and Carters Creek (Clean Carters Creek) while increasing oyster shell recycling efforts and bringing oyster reef restoration efforts to scale throughout the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. It also enabled us to begin working with new partners on reef monitoring surveys to help make restoration efforts more efficient. This is only the beginning!



RESTORING the Rappahan



2023 RESTORATION GOALS

- 1 million oysters grown and planted on reef restoration projects through the new Rappahannock River Oyster Restoration Partnership Program
- 75,000 trees planted throughout our watershed as a part of our Rappahannock Coastal Forest Program
- 10 Green Infrastructure projects installed to treat polluted stormwater runoff from our urban and suburban communities. These include rain gardens, bioswales, conservation landscaping, permeable pavement, and more!
- 15k pounds of trash removed from parks, trails, streams and the river through our #RappRiverCleanup program
- 1,000 linear feet of living shoreline planted with wetland grasses to stabilize the shorelines, filter nutrient pollution, and provide high value habitat for fish and wildlife
- Construct a new canoe and kayak ramp for public access to the Rapidan River

New Bridge Supports Brook Trout Habitat Restoration

Greene County, Virginia is home to an abundance of native brook trout habitat in the headwaters of the Rapidan River watershed. In 2022, we completed a multi-year project to restore fish passage and improve habitat for native brook trout on a coldwater tributary to the South River by installing a full span bridge to replace old rusted culverts. This project also created a new trailhead and parking facility that leads to the Appalachian Trail and Shenandoah National Park! This was an immense project that would not have been possible without all the support from the many partners including Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC), US Fish and Wildlife Service, Rapidan TU, Greene County, Virginia Tech, Piedmont Environmental Council, and our amazing private donors!



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Rappahannock Coastal Forestry Program

The Rappahannock Coastal Forest Program works to plant trees and restore forest habitat across the Rappahannock River Watershed from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Chesapeake Bay.

The Rappahannock Coastal Forest Program receives generous support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Arbor Day Foundation, Virginia Department of Forestry, local soil and water conservation districts Natural Resource Conservation Service, and countless local partners and volunteers.



Total trees planted
in 2022 **40,035**

Total trees planted by
FOR volunteers **3,728**

Acres of Riparian Buffer &
Forest Habitat Restored **150+**

Students & Volunteers
supported projects **250+**

Invested in clean water
through healthy forests **\$250K+**



Partnership with St. Margaret's

The Tidal Office has a second home! In August 2022, St. Margaret's School in Tappahannock agreed to provide office space for FOR education staff in exchange for professional development and outdoor learning opportunities for their students. We began the 2022-2023 academic year with a professional development and worked on ways to integrate the river across the SMS curriculum. We also took 50 of their students out on the river for two days of paddling, trash pickup, water quality testing, marsh interpretation, and erosion boxes. Throughout the fall, Tidal educators have been working with a student intern and the Green Team on green campus initiatives, creating a space for youth voices in the FOR office, and fundraising ideas.



MWEE Teacher Ambassador Program with Stafford County

Our Headquarters Office has partnered with Stafford County Public Schools. With a grant funded by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), FOR utilizes our experience in Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEE) to train ten high school science teachers, two from each of the five high schools, to become MWEE Ambassadors. These Ambassadors will function as their school's resource for any teacher endeavoring to bring MWEEs to their classes. Think "MWEE Librarians!" This program features 40 hours of professional development and hands-on experience in the lessons and activities typically conducted during MWEE investigations!



2023 EDUCATION GOALS

- We now have 2 educators upriver and 2 downriver. We are looking to sustain these positions, as they are currently mostly grant funded.
- Develop a plan to build sustainability into our education programs.
- Support MWEE programs across the watershed.
- Expand summer camp up and down river.
- Secure partner sites where we can regularly host field experiences outside of the Fredericksburg region.



Educating future River Stewards



Headwaters Community Education and Parks & Rec Partnership

In 2022, in partnership with local park departments, we brought Outdoor Learning Labs to the headwaters region enabling young learners from the community to explore the natural world. Many of the young people we get to see return for monthly programs that focus on a new topic of outdoor observation or a STEM investigation. All young people need a space where they can just ask all of their nature related curiosities, and we have been able to provide just that place! Did you know that bird watching is “the 15th most popular hobby” in the United States? So, it only makes sense that when FOR began partnering with parks and recreation in the headwaters region to offer bird walks and talks, community members started participating! We are excited for where this connection with the community will lead in the future.

Thank you to Our Donors

\$5,000 PLUS

James Scully and Jessica Kujala
The Charles Rowe Family
Foundation

The David Morgan Fund of The
Community Foundation of the
Rappahannock River Region
Tracy Houck Harris

Jeffrey Wright
Katherine Pharibe Wise Fund of the
Community Foundation of Louisville
Keith Kennedy
Kiwanis Club of Fredericksburg
Matthew Busch
Melanie Sovine
Metro Nova Creative
Mildrid and Sebastian Vittoria
Passarello Family Fund of Vanguard
Charitable Fund
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PBM
Phillip and Virginia Sasser
R-Board
Rambletype LLC
Rebecca Hanmer
Rebecca Lawson
Robert and Tristin Fidler
Roger Courtenay
Ronald and Susan Bishop
Seth Craig and Marcia Keener
Sharon and Kent Farmer
The H and ER-H Fund
Thomas Innes
Tim Davis and Laurel Fensterer
Wayland and Melissa
William and Elizabeth Livingston

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Amy and Paul Goodall
Black Marsh Farm
Carolyn Coble
Charles and Mary Wynn McDaniel
David Foster
Edward Sharp
Gary and Tooie Garber
Jami and David Daniel
Joanna Reynolds
Lisa Mountcastle
Marie Gozzi
Mary Ellen Wheeler
Old Dominion Land Conservancy
Rappahannock Rotary Club
Rennie & Richmond McDaniel Fund
of the Community Foundation of
the Rappahannock River Region
Stephany Carlucci
The Chaney Family Trust

Anne Beals
Annjetta Kemp
April and Keith Peterson
Barbara Davis
Bob Butterworth and Lisa Robertson
Bruce and Diane Lee
Catherine and Ben Hicks
Chris and Tamara Muldrow
Christopher Quarles
D.W. Monahan and K.T. Lovello
Daniel and Cynthia Hoffman
Dogwood Fund of River Counties
Community Foundation
Dovetail Cultural Resource Group
Edward Sharp
Francesca Johnson
Gary and Christina Gemmill
Hayden Townsend
Henry and Lynne Clemo
Hilary Stebbins and Robert Barr
Jay O'Dell and Dianne Baker

Many hundreds of people, too numerous to list in this report gave generously up to \$500. Thank you.

1134

Memberships in our River Family

*** This number does not reflect the # of individual members of the organization. Many of our Family Memberships and higher include multiple individuals which are only represented by single memberships in this number.*

"The Rappahannock and its fall line, is the reason Fredericksburg exists. It is certainly the reason our family has chosen to live here. The river is a beautiful place to relax, play and gather. Friends of the Rappahannock helps to ensure that the river will continue to be our most significant local natural resource, now and in the future. Plus they throw the best party of the year, Riverfest!"

- FOR Lifetime Members Jess Kujala & Jamie Scully



LIFETIME MEMBERS

*2023 NEW LIFETIME MEMBER

| | | |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| Adler Family | Greg & Carrie Szlyk | Nick & Jeanette Cadwallender |
| Albert Wachtmeister- Black Marsh Farm * | Haas Family- Belle Grove Plantation | Patricia Corbett |
| Amy & Paul Goodall | HC and Renna Cosner | Patrick Taylor |
| Anne Beals | Howard and Mary Owen | Penny & John Wack |
| Barbara Fant | Intuit | R. Thomas Van Arsdall |
| Bayley & Joan Silleck | The Tides Inn | Ray & Kay Pollock |
| Bess Turk | Jim Steele | Raymond Polcha |
| Beth & John Elkins | Jami & David Daniel | Rebecca Hanmer |
| Beverley King | Jennifer & Karl Gron | Richmond & Rennie McDaniel |
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| Birchwood Power Partners | Jerry Michael Logan- Logan Electric Services, Inc. | Robert & Cheryl DeBlasi |
| Brian Dillistin | Jess Kujala & Jamie Scully * | Robert C Innes |
| Candra Kiehna | Jim & Denise Ramsbotham | Rufus Harris |
| Catherine Wack & Steve King | Orion Enterprises | Rusty Dennen |
| Charles & Mary Wynn McDaniel | Joanna Reynolds | Ruth Fitzgerald |
| Charles & Susan Titus | John & Anna Tippett | Sam & Tricia Foltz |
| Clay Calvert & Mary Becelia | John & Sharon Fick | Sam & Viola Mason |
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| Donald and Bev Newlin | Karen Snavelly | Shreve Ariail |
| Donald Caswell | Kathleen & Cornelius Walsh | Stephen & Helen Sanders |
| Dovetail Cultural Resources | Keith Homza | Summit Asset Management, LLC |
| Drew Thayer | Kim & Alan Weakley | Susan Carter Morgan & David Morgan |
| DuCard Vineyards | Kitty Farley & Vic Ramonida | Susan Doepp |
| Edith Lohman | Larry & Marjorie Glassco | Tamara and Christopher Muldrow |
| Edward & Weber Taylor | Lisa Mountcastle | Tessa & William Pou |
| Edward Sharp | Luke McCormack | The Charles Rowe Family Foundation |
| Ellen Jarrell | Marie Gozzi | The Cliff Miller Family Foundation |
| Els Van Wingerden and Andrew Craig | Mary Ellen Wheeler | Thomas & Ann Smith |
| Enos & Ellen Richardson | Mary Jane & Alfred King | Thomas & Julie Duggan |
| Florence L Snider | Michael & Joyce Childress | Thomas & Karen Ehrhard |
| Franklin & Jane Coates | Michael & Karen Crane | Thomas & Kim Mitchell |
| Gabe Burton & Potter Ryerson | Michael & Melissa Zubick | Thomas Wack & Ann Sears |
| Gary & Tooie Garber | Michael Cherwek & Nancy Cherwek | Tracy Houck |
| George & Charmaine Sofis | Michael Mastropaolo | Troy & Debra Durocher |
| Gilbert & Judy Shelton | Mike Blashford | Veronica Kelly & Daniel Wack |
| Glenna Shiflett | | Waring Tribble Jr |

Gifts made in memory of...

Phillip Marino - Tom Drumm - Jerry Lee Reynolds - Donald Reed

Barbara Foos - Jack Sulima - Jennifer Ball - Kenny Brown

For 38 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...

Thousands of volunteer hours were served in 2022.

Volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization and make so much of what we do possible. From tree plantings to oyster recycling, to litter clean ups and so much more, **thank you for making our river a better place!**

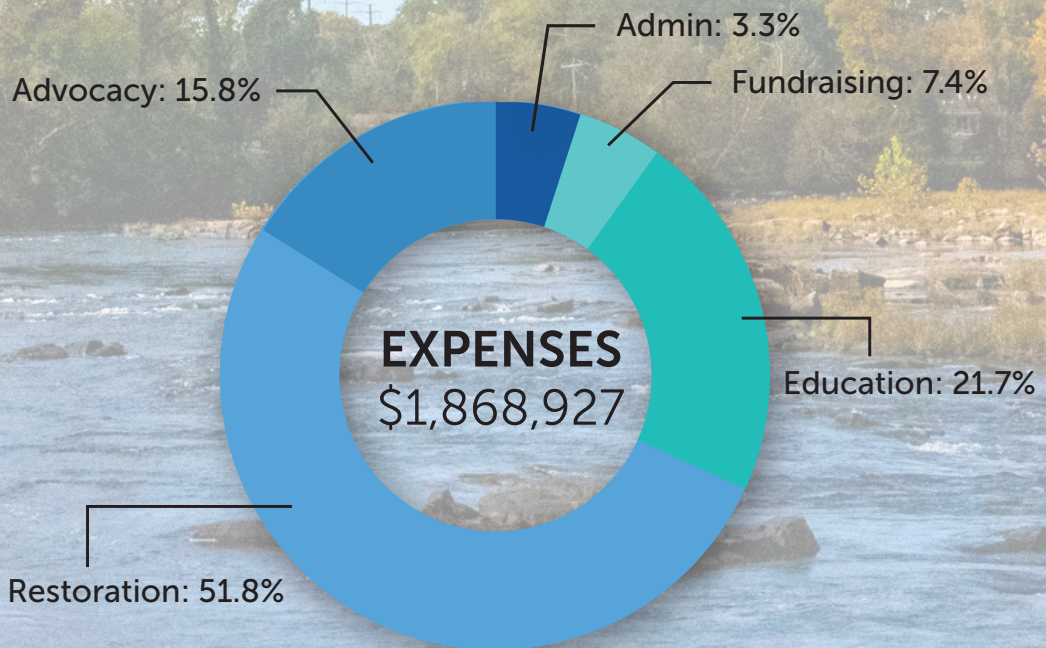
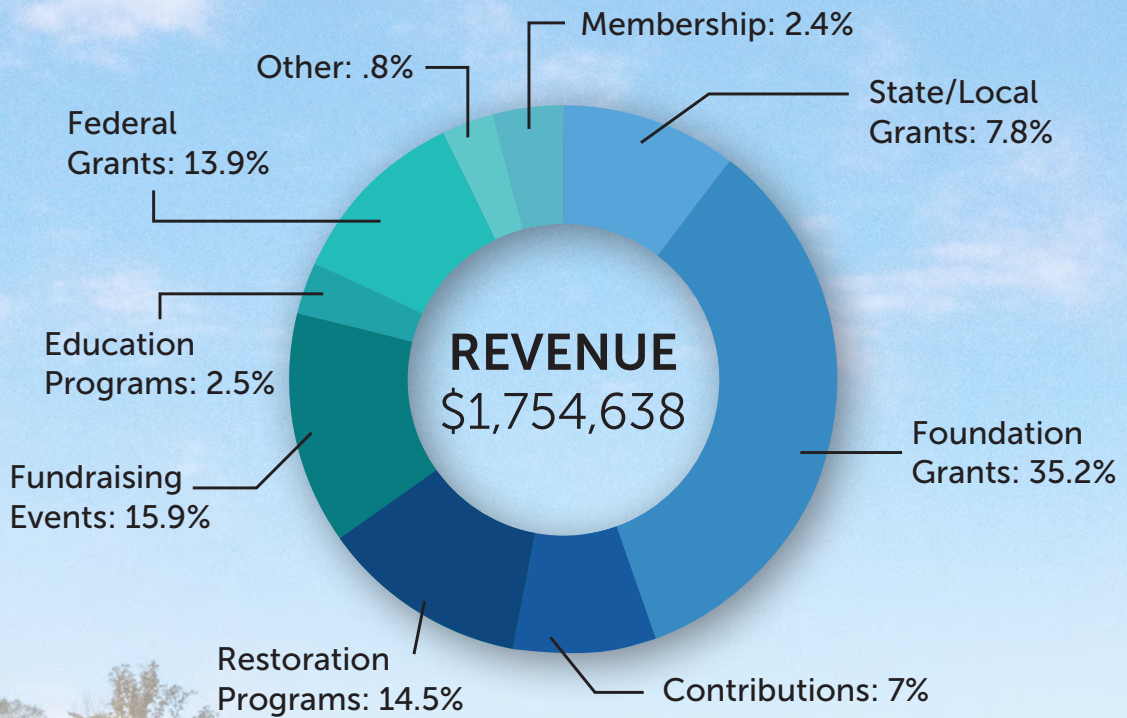


THANK YOU, GRANT FUNDERS

Arbor Day Foundation
Campbell Foundation
Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund
Chesapeake Bay Trust
Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region
Community Relief Fund
Duff McDuff Green, Jr. Fund
Fredericksburg Savings Charitable Foundation Fund
Dominion Energy Foundation
Environmental Protection Agency
George Washington Regional Commission
Grow Up Great - PNC Bank
Matthew and Genevieve Mezzanotte Foundation
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Nature Generation
National Wildlife Federation
Northern Piedmont Community Foundation
Culpeper Foundation Fund
Patricia and Nicolaas Kortlandt Memorial Fund
Richard Lykes Rappahannock Community Fund
PATH Foundation
Piedmont Environmental Council Krebsler Fund for Rappahannock County Conservation
Project Learning Tree
Rappahannock Electric Cooperative
Rappahannock Rotary
Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool Fund of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund
River Counties Community Foundation
The Nature Conservancy
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Virginia Department of Forestry
Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Stewardship Fund
Virginia Outdoors Foundation



2022 FINANCIALS



Please note: this only represents revenue received in 2022 and therefore does not reflect the actual cash position of the organization, which would include unspent revenue received in prior years.

**The above numbers are not audited finals.

Advocacy | Restoration | Education

Headwaters Office - Culpeper, VA

Mike Shaw - River Steward
Carmen Cantrell - Restoration Technician
April Harper - Education Manager
Abby Shifflett - Educator

Headquarters Office - Fredericksburg, VA

Adam Lynch - River Steward
Sarah Kerner - GIS Intern
Heather Strother - York River Steward
Nancy Stalik - Education Manager
Jen Gron - Field Trip Coordinator
Tyler Finley - Educator
Rebecca Kurylo - Educator
Rachel Thomas - Educator

Tidal Office - Tappahannock, VA

Brent Hunsinger - Tidal Programs Manager
Libby Bieri - River Steward
Jen Sagan - Oyster Restoration Specialist
Lesley Newman - Educator
Robin Didlake - Educator
Anna McGonnell - Educator

Administrative FOR Staff:

Daria Christian - Executive Director
Bryan Hofmann - Deputy Director
Amy Kilpatrick - Executive Assistant
Katie Pomeroy - Membership Coordinator
Lis Heras - Development Coordinator
Carleigh Starkston - Communication Coordinator
Krystal Lightall - Conservation Fellow



*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

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