



JUNE-JULY-AUGUST 2010

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

*Serving the Residents of
Culpeper, Orange, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Fredericksburg,
Caroline, King George*



**RAPPAHANNOCK
GROUP
of the
SIERRA CLUB**

Upcoming Events
Saturday, June 12



**Annual RGSC Members, Family
and Friends Picnic**
11 am. -1:00 pm.
Alum Springs Park
Fredericksburg
(Covered Shelter)

Its the last gathering before our summer break ! Be sure to join us for our annual picnic to held at **June 12, 11- 1 pm.** at Alum Springs Park, (covered shelter). Rappahannock Group Sierra Club members, family and friends are welcome to join in for a relaxing and enjoyable afternoon shared with fellow Club members and guests.

Please bring a covered dish to share. Drinks, light refreshments will be provided. For more info contact: Eric Stott: steelerboy65@gmail.com. Directions to Alum Springs Park are available on-line, <http://maps.google.com> enter: "Alum Springs Park", Fredericksburg, VA.

Spotsylvania Greenways Initiative
Salamander Loop Trail
Grand Opening
June 5, 2010
9a.m. - 1 pm.

The official opening of the 2 mile Salamander Trail Loop of the Ni River Trail in Spotsylvania County on June 5, 2010 will coincide with National Trails Day. For more information and directions visit the Spotsylvania Greenways Initiative website: <http://spotsylvaniagreenways.org/>

Sign Up for RGSC Email Updates!

Send an email to rappsierraclub@gmail.com

**Rappahannock Group's Special Tribute Honoring
Doris Lindsey Whitfield**

(by Linda C. Muller)



(Doris Whitfield receiving the RGSC's Green Award)
pictured: Doris Whitfield and RGSC Ex-Com Members: Eric Lawrence Stott, Carol Buffram, Jim Lynch and Linda Hiross (photo D. Ferguson)

On Thursday, March 11, the RGSC honored departing former Chairwoman Doris Lindsey Whitfield at a special recognition tribute and reception. The meeting kicked off with a presentation on the Climate Change conference in Copenhagen (COP15) by Tyla Matteson, Political Chair of the Virginia Chapter Sierra Club. During "intermission" between programs, local singer/songwriter Bob Gramann played one of Doris' favorite songs: "Rappahannock Running Free".

Presentations

Doris' enthusiasm and tireless advocacy on behalf of the environment has translated into a large bounty of environmental programs and projects through-out the Rappahannock Region. Several organizations were represented and on hand to pay special tribute to Doris including: UMW Ecology Club by Laura Pilati, Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail by Jim Lynch, City of Fredericksburg Parks and Recreation by Linda Bailey, Friends of Rappahannock Wildlife Refuge by Jim Lynch, Virginia Chapter Sierra Club by VA Chapter Director Glen Besa.

As an engaged citizen-lobbyist, Doris challenged and encouraged local, state and national elected officials to take up the cause of protecting and conserving the environment. Past RGSC Chair Scott Howson read the special letters of Commemoration honoring Doris received from area elected officials. Letters of Commemoration were received from: Congressman Rob Wittman (VA 1st), Virginia State Senator Edd Houck (17th District), and Virginia House of Delegates Albert Pollard (99th District). Additionally, a letter of commemoration from Lisa Guthrie, Executive Director of the Virginia League of Conservation Voters was read by Linda Muller. (con't pg 2)

A Message From Your New Chair~

Dear Rappahannock Group Members,

On Thursday, March 4th, 2010, Ex-Com made the historic decision to elect the first African-American Chair of the Rappahannock Group.

I am very grateful to be given the opportunity to be leading a dynamic and active club whose members are dedicated supporters of the environment. I look forward to working with each of you and I thank you for your support.

Some background on me. I grew up in Rochester NY and moved to Virginia in 1990. Terri and I moved to King George County in 2000 where I met Rappahannock Group Chair Doris Whitfield! I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 2003 and joined the Sierra Club because I feel we need to do a better job protecting wildlife, natural areas and be more accountable for our actions. I believe its important to engage our youth in the care and protection of the environment so that they can "pass along" a cleaner environment to their children.

As a Rappahannock Group member, I have taken on several projects and responsibilities including Chair of the Political Committee and Chair of the Recycling Committee. Last year I attended the Sierra Club National political training week-end in Arlington Virginia and had the opportunity to meet the new Sierra Club President Alison Chinn. Additionally, I have worked with VA Chapter Political Director Tyla Matteson on local area elections. As Recycling Chair, I initiated the first annual "America Recycles" Event in Fredericksburg (November 2009) that involved local area businesses to help promote recycling in the home and in the office. We are currently in the planning stages for this years **America Recycles: November 2010**, and would love to have more volunteers join our Recycling Committee.

I believe it is important to be engaged and active at the local "grass roots" level and currently serve on the George Washington Regional Commission Subcommittee Recycling (Vice-Chair), Green Drinks (Publicity Chair), and the King George County Landfill Advisory Committee (Vice-Chair).

We face many challenges and opportunities: proposed off-shore drilling along VA's Coast, Reducing Virginia's Carbon Footprint through the Beyond Coal campaign, cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay..to list a few.

I hope you can join us for our **Annual RGSC Picnic June12, 2010 at Alum Springs Park, 11 am. to 1 pm.** Bring family, friends (and a covered dish to share). Its our last meeting before the "summer break". My phone and e-mail are always open to ALL of you so please feel free to contact me so we can talk. I look forward to meeting and talking with you!

Keep Virginia Clean, Green & RECYCLE,
Eric Lawrence Stott (540-429-0898)
Chair of the Rappahannock Group Sierra Club

Recognition To These RGSC Members

RGSC Chair Eric Lawrence Stott announced at the May 13, 2010 meeting special recognition awards to **Joan & Bill Hulse** for 10 years of coordinating and organizing the Adopt A Highway Litter Pick-Up along Route 3 in Spotsylvania County. The Hulse's Adopt A Highway efforts resulted 24 group pick ups and 477 bags of trash.

Also a special certificate of recognition for **Linda Hiross** for serving as RGSC Secretary and Chair of the Fundraising Committee. Linda initiated RGSC's Holiday Cards fundraisers and gift basket raffles and served as Secretary for RGSC. Linda was also instrumental in coordinating our recent Tribute to Doris.

Thanks to Joan and Bill Hulse and Linda Hiross!

Locally, the George Washington Regional Commission issued Resolution No. 10-19 "Recognizing The Contribution of Doris Whitfield", and signed by the GWRC Chairman, Hap Connors on January 25 2010.

Redwood Tree

Seen on the Sierra Club logo, the Giant Sequoia Tree is symbolically tied to Sierra Club's founder John Muir. Through the assistance of Ann Little of Tree Fredericksburg and RGSC Board member Paula Chow, a Dawn Redwood Tree was presented to Doris for future planting at Alum Springs Park in her honor. The tree will be planted near the John Whitfield Memorial Bridge at Alum Springs Park.

Green Award

The final tribute and award of the evening was presented by the RGSC Executive Committee. The Green Award is special to RGSC with only one prior recipient: Del. Albert Pollard. This years Green Award was created and hand crafted by Sierra Club member Ruth Carlone. Having worked with Doris over the years on numerous projects, Ruth wanted to create a piece that "captured a history of Doris' environmental activities, interests and accomplishments". Included in the framed award: a picture from Crow's Nest encircled by a necklace composed of pottery shards from the late Potomac and Rappahannock Era, fragment from a fossilized stingray dental plate (donated by Patricia Kurpiel), mollusk fossil, worm fossil, Ferry Farm Trail button, Crow's Nest Button, Stafford County button, and a brass commemorative plate (assisted by Linda Hiross).

At the conclusion of the Tribute, Doris offered words of gratitude and reminded everyone that more work needs to be done on behalf of the environment. Bob Gramann concluded the tribute with Doris' favorite song : "The Battle of the Squirrel and the CEO". We wish Doris a restful "retirement" in Raleigh, N.C., and we are certain Doris will be visiting in the near future.

#

For more photos of the Tribute, check out RGSC website: <http://virginia.sierraclub.org/rg/>



We wish to thank all of the volunteers, organizations, and presenters who helped make the Tribute to Doris an enjoyable success. It required a lot of planning, coordination, and even a re-scheduling due to a snow storm in February. As an all volunteer organization, we are grateful for everyones contribution of time, talent and commitment. Sincerely, The RGSC Board.



2010 Earth Day On the Rappahannock!

By Linda C. Muller

Have a Green Summer!

by Paula Chow

Vacation, travel, picnics, family gatherings, weekend excursions, camping - summer is full of activities and green opportunities, too. It takes conscious effort to make a green summer happen, but once you figure it out, it's easy and convenient. Establishing different habits teach your children and grandchildren ways to incorporate activities of daily living into responsible and healthy habits for the environment they will inherit.

Here are some "quick tips" for a Greener Summer:

Remember when your parents or grandparents brought picnic baskets of durable plates and utensils? Today you can find reusable plasticware and lightweight ceramicware (Corning Ware Correlle is excellent). Inexpensive cloth napkins can be tossed in the wash along with your dishtowels. And try to eliminate those "use only once" resealable plastic bags.

With outdoor entertaining at home avoid the "disposables". Its easy because you can use the same dishes you have in your cupboard!

Camping is all about the environment - enjoying the fabulous pristine outdoors. The camping kit is a must, eliminating disposables. Campfires pollute but if you must have one, keep it to a minimum. Rechargeable batteries for your flashlight are ultimately a better value economically and reduces excess.

When vacationing by car, keep a fully stocked picnic basket in it. Bring it to your motel/hotel room and use your personal cups and utensils instead of the disposable plastic cup provided. We have made it a practice to bring our cups and bowls to the motel breakfast bar and, no, we don't get strange looks. There is a little "dish washing" involved but it's not a big deal.

When traveling by vehicle, a bag can be easily kept for the recyclables you generate on your trip. While it's easy to just get rid of the empty cans, bottles and newspapers, it's just as easy to toss them into a bag in the car to await recycling back at home.

Recycle brochures, maps and literature you pick up from the Visitors Center and/or the motel lobby. The ones from the motel can be returned before leaving rather than tossing them into the trash. Others can be recycled to your bag in the car.

Green travel basics include carrying your reusable water bottle, a travel mug if you're a coffee or tea drinker and a reusable shopping bag or two. You say it's inconvenient. It is initially. The cost of convenience means that it will truly be too late to recover environmental losses. Camping and being a tourist will never be the same.#



RGSC member Ruth Carlone assisting with seed planting (photo by L.Muller)

This years Earth Day Celebration was held at Old Mill Park, Fredericksburg along the Rappahannock River to coincide with the annual Friends of the Rappahannock's river clean-up. The RGSC booth bustled with activity all day with eager children (and parents) trying their hand at seed planting. Joining the RGSC booth was Kate Pollard, the Northern VA Sierra Club "Beyond Coal" organizer who circulated petitions and sign-up sheets for RGSC booth visitors. Colonial Forge HS Student Phoebe Matibe was also on hand to promote her "KickButts" campaign to help stop teen smoking and "butt" littering. More Earth Day photos are posted on-line:

<http://virginia.sierraclub.org/rg/>

Beyond Coal: <http://sierraclub.org/coal/va/default.aspx>

KickButts: <http://www.kickbuttsday.org/>

RGSC Programs, Events & Outings

Please note that RGSC does not have membership meetings in July and August. We have our annual Picnic June 12 2010 and our next regularly scheduled meeting will be our annual open house in September 9, 2010. Please join us for our Annual Picnic and have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Sat. June 12, 2010 11 am. - 1 p.m. Annual RGSC Picnic Alum Springs Park (covered shelter). Bring family, friends, and a covered dish to share. Light refreshments will be provided. Contact Eric: steelerboy65@gmail.com

Other Events (non RGSC Sponsored)

Sat. June 5. National Trails Day on the Potomac Heritage Trail. Celebrate National Trails Day by helping on a trail project in nearby Prince William County. REI and the Potomac Heritage Trail Association will be constructing an important new section of the PHT at Rippon Lodge near Leesylvania S.P. above Neasbo Creek. In recent years a massive effort has been underway to complete the PHT, with a major push now taking place between Occoquan Bay and Prince William Forest. If interested contact Glenn Gillis at 703/430-0568, glennpotomacfalls@yahoo.com.

Thursday June 24, 6 – 8 pm. Green Drinks, Otter House in Fredericksburg Socialize and relax with fellow eco-minded folks. Speaker TBA
<http://groups.google.com/group/fredgreendrinks>

Sat. June 26 River Easement Hike and Float Fredericksburg's Watershed Property Manager, Lee Sillitoe, will guide us through protected riparian forests and discuss the importance of conservation easements and streamside buffer zones. We will canoe from Mott's Run Landing, and then hike to England Run Falls. Bring a bag lunch. Minimum age 8 years. 9 am-2 pm. *Rain or shine.* \$20 person/\$60 family. FOR www.riverfriends.org 540-373-3348

Next RGSC Meeting: FALL OPEN HOUSE September 9, 2010 7 pm. FUMC

Check out the RGSC website for updated listings and events:
<http://virginia.sierraclub.org/RG>