

James RiverWatch



April 2008

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Easy Ways to Support JRA:

Only through the strong support of our members can JRA continue its efforts to protect and restore the James River for current and future generations to enjoy.

Volunteer

Visit JRA's [Website](#) to find out about Volunteer Opportunities

Search

Use [GoodSearch.com](#) as your search engine with JRA listed as your charity and earn money for JRA while searching the Web!

Making strides in Legislation

This legislative session has turned out to be a success for JRA and Virginia's water quality, despite 1.4 billion funding cuts.

JRA and the Agriculture and Conservation Partnership for Water Quality, which consists of ten leading farming and conservation organizations, had success in securing more funding to help farmers implement pollution-reducing conservation practices.

The Virginia Natural Resource Commitment Fund was the only new fund to be passed in this session, demonstrating its broad support in the General Assembly. This Fund was started at \$20 million, as originally proposed by Governor Kaine, and will be used as a cost share for installed agricultural conservation practices.

Five priority conservation practices were targeted for the funding: no-till farming, winter cover crops, nutrient management plans to guide fertilizer applications, streamside buffers and stream fencing for livestock.

Other legislation of interest:

- A bill to ban the use of phosphorus in some cleaning agents was amended to include household dishwashing detergent. This initiative will take effect as of July 1, 2010.
- An amendment was made to Virginia's law, to promote stormwater reuse to decrease the discharge of pollution into Virginia waterways.
- A bill set aside \$30 million in bonds for land conservation. Five million will be set aside for historic sites, including Civil War battlefields.
- A bill that would have restructured and weakened the Air, Water and Waste boards into one board was revised to strengthen the boards and citizen participation.
- There will be stronger regulations for commercial lawn care contractors on fertilizer applications to non-agricultural land. The contractor will soon have to have qualified training on nutrient management practices and proper application of fertilizer, as well as a required soil test before the application.
- A combined sewer overflow bill gave \$3 million to Richmond and Lynchburg to continue improvements to their stormwater systems.

For more information about the proposed bill results visit the Virginia General Assembly, click [here](#).

18th Annual Westover Lawn Party

Drink

When you buy Ukrop's Super Markets bottled spring water, JRA receives part of the proceeds.

Join

Keep your membership up to date and encourage your friends to join. Check out our [website](#) for membership information!

Donate

We accept donations of Gifts of Stock, bonds and other investments. You can also donate through the [Donate Now](#) Link on our [Website](#).

Please send in your Ukrops' Golden Gift receipts to JRA. We will earn one Golden Gift Point for every \$1 spent. Thanks for your support!

14th Street Fish Festival

Saturday, April 26th,
3pm

14th Street Bridge

Free Admission

Chesterfield Rain Barrel Workshop

May 10th 9am- noon

Chesterfield Town Center

Registration is

JRA's 18th Annual Westover Lawn Party is fast approaching! The event will take place on June 7, 2008 from 3:00 to 7:00 PM. Our Annual Westover Lawn Party is held each year at Westover in Charles City and is JRA's primary fundraiser. This fun filled event is well known for its music, live auction, silent auction, seafood bar and a variety of children's activities. For more information on this event please contact Sherrie Tribble at stribble@jrava.org.



Spring Orvis Days Seminars and Events

JRA is teaming up with Orvis for Spring Orvis Days Seminars and Events on Saturday, May 3 at their Richmond Store from 11am-3pm. There will be a variety of seminars, sale promotions and refreshments available! JRA's Executive Director, Bill Street, will be the first speaker at noon with a presentation focusing on invasive species and fish kills.

Orvis is also contributing 5% of pre-tax sales of all Insect Shield items sold on May 3, to the James River Association. The first 50 customers will receive a free insect shield hat.

To visit Orvis's website click [here](#).

Virginia Mudbusters

Become a Virginia Mud Busters to help reduce sediment pollution that flows into our rivers by keeping an eye on construction projects and resolving problems by working with JRA, CBF and our local governments. Too little is being done to reduce development pollution due to our expanding cities and towns.

Become a Mud Buster by following these four simple steps:

1. [Sign up](#).
2. [Review the on-line resources here](#) and [here](#).
3. [Attend a free optional workshop on April 14, 2008 in Richmond from 6:30-8:30 PM](#).
4. Get started busting some mud!

James River Regional Cleanup

Help clean up the James River on June 14th for the James River Regional Cleanup, sponsored by the James River Advisory Council. Be one of

Required
There is a fee per rain
barrel.
(804) 751-4401

To keep up with
important events visit
our Calender of
Events on our
[Website](#)

hundreds of volunteers that collect litter on foot or in boats from the shoreline and waters of the James River and its tributaries from Appomattox County to Charles City County. Please visit www.jamesriveradvisorycouncil.com/cleanup/cleanup.htm for more information on how you can participate.

Earth Day Canoe Trip at James River NWR

Search for bald eagles, great blue herons and more to celebrate Earth Day. Richmond Audubon Society guides will interpret the waterways of Powells Creek and adjacent trails. Canoes, flotation devices, paddles and canoe safety training provided. Participation is limited.

This will be held at the James River National Wildlife Refuge, on Saturday, April 19th, 10am - 1pm. Pre-registration is required. Please call Heather Murdoch at James River Association at (804) 788-8811 x 205.

New Farm Equipment Available to Help Reduce Runoff

As an addition to last month's article, thanks to a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Small Watersheds Grant, the Appomattox Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) now has a roller crimper available for use in Dinwiddie County. The grant also enabled a successful informational workshop for area farmers. For more information in using this roller crimper please contact Bonnie Thompson, Appomattox SWCD Conservation Specialist, at 804-469-7297 ext. 108 or you can email her at bonnie.thompson@va.nwdnet.net.

Last month's James RiverWatch can be seen in pdf format on our website by clicking [here](#).

The James River Association is a member supported, nonprofit organization that works to provide a voice for the James River and its natural resources. If you'd like to help us continue our work, please call us to find out how you can join or donate at

(804) 788-8811 Ext. 202

If you have any questions/ comments about the James RiverWatch please email awilliams@jrva.org.

If you need to be removed from this list please use the [SafeUnsubscribe](#) link below.