

James RiverWatch



April 2009

Rain Garden Workshop

James River Association Website

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Join Our Mailing List!



On Saturday, April 18, 11 volunteers joined JRA staff to help plant a rain garden at the Advance Auto Parts on West Broad Street in Richmond. The rain garden was originally planned as part of Extreme

Remember to Send JRA your Ukrop's Golden Gift Certificates!

Stream Makeover: Horsepen Branch. Rain prohibited us from planting the garden in the fall, but we are very pleased to have gotten it in the ground this spring!

Mail them to:
James River Association
9 South 12th Street,
4th Floor
Richmond, VA
23219

The rain garden is 400 square feet in size and is located in the back corner of the property, adjacent to Falmouth Road. The garden contains over 80 herbaceous plants and shrubs including Beautyberry (*Callicarpa Americana*), Red Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*), Sweet Pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*), Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), Black Eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia hirta*) and Joe-Pye Weed (*Eupatorium purpureum*).

Easy Ways to Support JRA:

Join
Keep your membership

Water from a downspout is being diverted through a vegetated channel and into the rain garden. The plants and mulch in the garden will help improve the quality of the water before it soaks into the ground or enters Horsepen Branch. The plants in the garden will take in nutrients from the runoff while the mulch traps additional nutrients, sediment and other

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

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.

What you can do

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!

Drink

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

Please Recycle!

Don't let your bottles end up in the river!

Donate

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

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

pollutants such as oil and gas.



Earth Day Clean-ups

JRA celebrated Earth Day (April 22nd) with two cleanups along the James River in downtown Richmond. The first cleanup took place at Great Shiplock Park, located on Dock and Pear Streets. We had 18 volunteers join us over their lunch break from Virginia

Department of Conservation and Recreation, Elk Hill School and interested citizens. The group collected sixteen bags of trash and 12 bags of recycling which was removed by Ralph White with the James River Park System.

That same evening a whopping 65 volunteers came together at Belle Isle. Groups such as Hunton & Williams, Hands On Greater Richmond, and Green Drinks organized many of the volunteers that attended that evening, and we also had participation from Seven Hills School and Virginia Commonwealth University. From 5:30 to 7 pm volunteers scouted the island for trash and recycling. Over fifty bags of trash were removed, thirty of which were sorted to be recycled. Overall, the event was a big success and we look forward to the James River Advisory Council James River Cleanup on June 13th.

Volunteer Opportunities

JRA's Watershed Restoration program has several volunteer opportunities coming up in May.

On Saturday, May 2 we will be doing spring maintenance on the rain gardens that were planted as part of Extreme Stream Makeover: Horsepen Branch. We will be working at several locations in the Horsepen Branch watershed (near the Home Depot at 6501 W. Broad St. in Richmond). Work will include weeding and mulching. We will meet at the Home Depot at 8:45am and work until noon.

On Saturday, May 16, from 9am - 12pm we will perform spring maintenance on the rain gardens that were planted as part of our first Extreme Stream Makeover: Oldtown Creek. We will weed and mulch rain gardens and bioretention areas at several locations in Colonial Heights. Carpooling is available.

For both maintenance days, please be sure to wear sturdy shoes (boots or sneakers) and clothes that you won't mind getting dirty. All tools and supplies will be provided.

On Saturday, July 18 JRA will be host a rain barrel workshop at the Home Depot at 6501 W. Broad Street. The workshop is scheduled from 9:30 - 11:00am. The cost is \$45 per barrel and includes the barrel and all supplies. All participants will take a completed barrel home with them on the day of the workshop. Registration is limited to the first 20 people. Payment must be received in advance and is non-refundable.

Visit our [webpage](#) for more information on registering for these events.

JRA in the News!

Many of you may have seen our Upper James Riverkeeper, David Sligh, on the Charlottesville's WCAV channel 19 news segment. If you missed it, visit the JRA in the News page of our website to keep up with the most up to date river news! www.jamesriverassociation.org/new.html

Dominion Riverrock

Don't miss the first Annual Dominion Riverrock -Richmond's riverlife celebration at Brown's Island May 15-16th, 2009. Stop by JRA's booth for an exciting children's activity! For a list of the Dominion Riverrock events visit their homepage: <http://www.sportsbackers.org/events/riverrock/riverrock.htm>

2009 Annual Westover Lawn Party

JRA's 19th Annual Westover Lawn Party will take place on Saturday, June 6, 2009 from 3:00 to 7:00 PM. Our Annual Westover Lawn Party is held each year at Westover on the James River 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 visit our website: www.jamesriverassociation.org

JRA's Annual Run-Off Run-Down

On July 11, 2009, JRA will host the second annual Runoff Rundown - a one-day event celebrating America's Founding River. The goal is for individuals to collectively traverse the entire 340 miles of the River. Through our combined efforts, participants and supporters will celebrate the heritage of the

James River, increase awareness of the JRA, support efforts to improve water quality and use the River for recreational enjoyment.

Have a great day out on the river, while helping to protect it at the same time! Visit the Runoff Rundown Website:

www.runoffrundown.org

A Word from JRA's new Environmental Educator



Hello! My name is Gabe Silver and I am very excited to be the James River Association's new Environmental Educator. I have recently journeyed downriver from Scottsville, where I was leading wilderness trips and activities at a school for troubled teenage boys. Prior to working as a group leader at this school, I was up the Rivanna River in Charlottesville earning a bachelor's degree in Environmental Thought and Practice from the University of Virginia while working as a field instructor for fly fishing programs and directing a volunteer program dedicated to affordable housing. Summers found me swinging a hammer and whitewater guiding on the Salmon River in Idaho. I grew up past the headwaters of the Rivanna, up the Mechums River, where I fell in love early on with the rivers and woods and later developed what was for a time an unhealthy obsession with fly fishing for trout. I am happy to have made it down the watershed to Richmond and am grateful to be working alongside other people who are so passionate about protecting and restoring the James River. Please feel free to contact me at any time at gsilver@jrava.org. I look forward very much to working with you.

What's your favorite place in the River?

Tell us your top 3 favorite places along the James and we'll list them on our new website. Send your favorite places or reasons why you love the James to jwarrington@jrava.org. Please include your town or city in your e-mail.

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 Sherrie Tribble 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@jrava.org.

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