

James RiverWatch



March 2009

Despite Economy, Virginia Maintains Funding for Clean Water Farming

**James River
Association
Website**

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JRA:**

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Keep your membership 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

As the Virginia legislature finished the 2009 General Assembly on February 28, 2009, its final budget reflected the widespread support for clean water programs that help farmers implement pollution cutting practices. The final state budget, which faced staggering deficits, maintained \$20 million for the Virginia Agricultural Cost Share Program.

At the urging of conservation and farming groups, Governor Kaine had included \$20 million in his proposed budget, thereby maintaining level funding from the previous year. Both the House and the Senate kept the full \$20 million in each of their budget bills and in the final budget.

"I think this is one of the few places in the state budget this year that was able to keep level funding," said Bill Street, JRA's Executive Director. "It demonstrates the strong support for this program from across the Commonwealth and across the political spectrum."

The funding is critical to improving the health of local streams and the James River. The Agricultural Cost Share program provides partial funding that is matched by farmer contributions to implement practices like fencing livestock out of streams, streamside forest buffers, fertilizer management plans, winter cover crops and conservation tillage. These agricultural practices are the most cost effective approach to achieve Virginia water quality goals.

The funding in the budget was complemented with legislation

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.

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](#)

patroned by Sen. Mary Margaret Wipple and Del. Steve Landes that formalizes a process to determine the annual funding need for the Agricultural Cost Share program and report that need to the Governor and the key money committees in the General Assembly.

JRA worked to secure funding for clean water farming with a coalition of 10 leading conservation and farming groups. "While there is still much work to be done, this achievement ensures that we will continue to move forward toward a healthier James River," concluded Street.

New Views of the James in the "Shoot the James" Photo Exhibit

Explore and celebrate the James River through the images of 18 area photographers. A new exhibition, "Shoot the James," now at Art6 Gallery, 6 East Board Street in downtown Richmond features both still and video images. The images focus on all manner of river-related subjects from dragonflies to industrial artifacts, riverscapes to recreational portraits. The work of Mike Ostrander, David Everett, Georgianne Stinnett, Thomas Daniel, Lynda Richardson, and others will be featured. The "Shoot the James" exhibition runs through Sunday, March 29, 2009. Art6 is open Thursday through Sunday 12 to 4 pm.

Tell Us Why You Love the River!

What do you love best about the James River? Is there a spot where the fish are always biting? Where's your favorite place to put in your kayak or canoe? Or do you do some of your best thinking while walking along the river? If the river holds a special place in your life, JRA wants to hear from you. This spring we will be unveiling our new website. To help people make new connections to the James River and its tributaries, we want to share some of our members' thoughts about the river.

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.

Volunteer Opportunities with JRA

If spring fever has you yearning to get outside, join the Watershed Scientists from JRA for this hands-on project designed to improve the health of the James River and its

wildlife.

Plant a Rain Garden: Rain gardens are a simple way to remove pollutants from rainwater runoff and reduce the amount of runoff leaving your property. Join representatives from the James River Association to learn more about rain gardens and help plant one at Advance Auto Parts, 6300 W. Broad Street, Richmond. We will be planting from 9 to 11am on Saturday, April 18. Wear sturdy shoes and clothes that can get dirty. Registration is required.

Contact Michelle Kokolis at 788-8811 ext 204, or email Volunteer@jrava.org by March 31.

Be sure to check our website for other upcoming events, www.jamesriverassociation.org/getinvolved.html

**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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James River Association | 9 South 12th Street | 4th Floor | Richmond | VA | 23219