

2007 *ALIVE by the James*



2007 ALIVE by the James Group Picture



Guest speakers for opening day were Libbie Norris, a Scientist with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Kurt Ziegler, Park Interpreter with James River State Park. Libbie gave an overview of watersheds and the impact everyone has on them. Kurt gave a history on the James River from colonial times to present in addition to sharing information on one of Virginia's newest State Parks.



*An initiative of
Virginia Cooperative Extension - Buckingham 4-H and
Peter Francisco Soil & Water Conservation District
Equal opportunity providers and employers*

GETTING ACQUAINTED



Making new friends and getting acquainted was essential for campers. From day one everyone had to learn to work together whether it be with cooking chores or cabin assignments. Everyone took turns and worked as a team. Only we did not know how much they LOVED volleyball. If there was available time...they would be playing volleyball.

ALIVE LEADERSHIP PROJECT

The ALIVE Leadership Project Meetings assisted the youth in developing a presentation to give in their local community on protecting the watershed.



The youth worked in groups to brainstorm potential leadership project ideas.



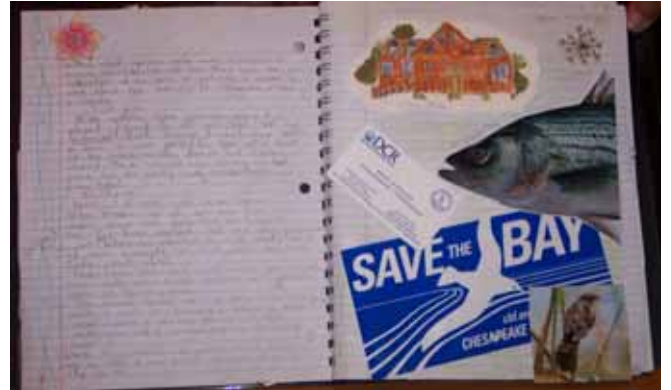
Team building exercises can be fun!

JOURNALING

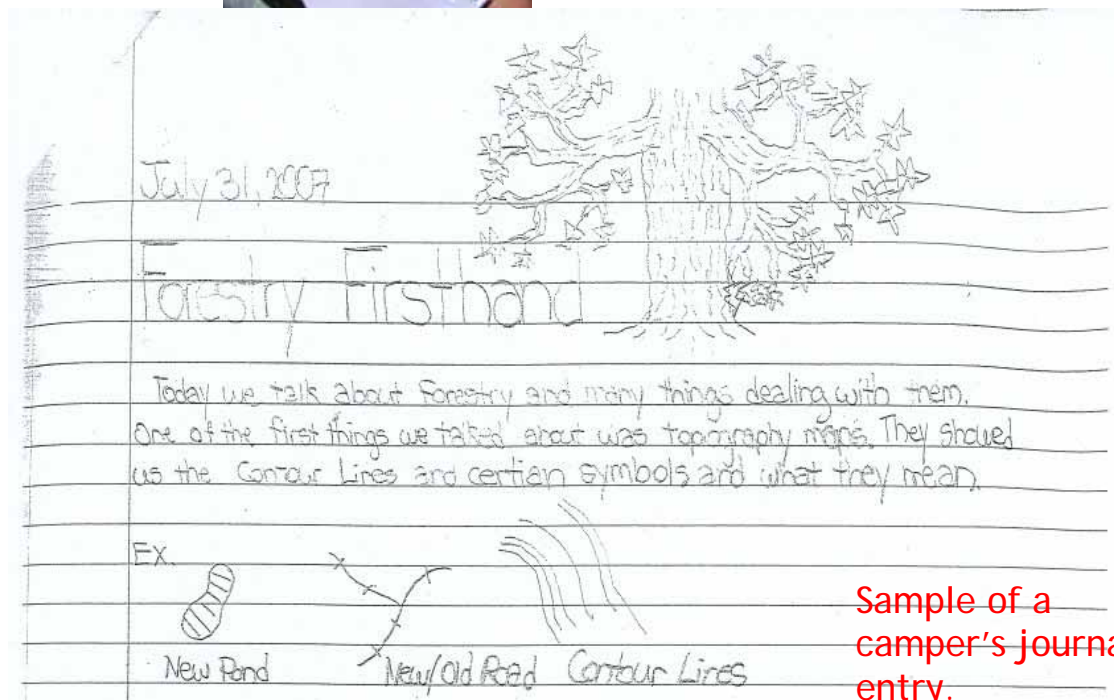
Part of the weeklong camp requirement was keeping a field journal. Each youth was given a plain spiral notebook and was encouraged to work on it every day.



Most had extensive journal entries from each learning tract and used handouts and notes.



Each cabin had a laptop computer and a color photo printer set up to assist with journal entries.



Sample of a camper's journal entry.

LEARNING TRACT: Soils



Instructor: John Womack
Natural Resources Conservation Services
(NRCS)



These girls enjoyed getting their hands dirty!



The soil samples were analyzed for type, texture, and properties.

The groups went out into the park to obtain soil samples from a few different locations.

LEARNING TRACT: Forestry



Instructors: Anna Cahoon, Eastern Virginia RC & D Forester & Ellen Powell, Conservation Education Coordinator head up the Team from Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF)

Youth learned tree and plant identification, how to read topographical maps, how forestry practices affect watersheds, and how to conduct a site evaluation before hiking the steep trails of James River State Park to pre-determined plots.



LEARNING TRACT: Aquatics



Instructor: Terry Abston
Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) - Not-



Youth made their way down to a small stream to overturn rocks and collect as many macroinvertebrates as they could. Once collected, the specimens were identified to help determine the health of the stream.



The ALIVE campers used various instruments and chemical testing equipment to evaluate river turbidity, rate of flow, pH, dissolved oxygen and more.



LEARNING TRACT: Stream Bank Stabilization Project



Instructors: Alecia Daves-Johnson,
Prince Edward County Planner
Erosion & Control Program Administrator and
Kelly Jones Snoddy
Peter Francisco Soil & Water Conservation



Site 1—Before

The Stream Bank Stabilization Project was conducted at two sites along River Trail at James River State Park.



Site 2—Before

LEARNING TRACT: Stream Bank Stabilization Project

Site 1



Campers preparing the bank...



Geotextile fabric being laid down.

Now, come the rocks....



Fiber matting was cut and laid around the rock to help hold grass seed.



LEARNING TRACT: Stream Bank Stabilization Project

Site 2



Again, this site had to be prepared by clearing away debris and packing dirt.



Geotextile fabric and coconut logs were put in place. The coconut logs arrived a day late creating a difference in the way each stream bank stabilization project was completed.



Mark Schuppin, Park Manager with James River State Park helped out too.



Stacking rocks was very time consuming and required everyone's participation.



All the hard work (and all those ROCKS) paid off in a job well done and a project successfully completed!

Rest & Relaxation On the Water

A camp with such hard work needs some fun in the sun and there was plenty of that!

CANOEING and TUBING ON THE JAMES



Rest & Relaxation on Land



There was movie night.....
complete with popcorn!



Amazing Race complete with
challenges and road blocks!!



Friday Evening Cook Out

VISITING DIGNITARY



Delegate Watkins M. Abbitt, Jr.
59th House District observing
campers journaling.



Here a few of the campers are showing Delegate Abbitt a power point presentation that is being created from pictures taken throughout the week.



Campers and adult volunteers shown posing with Delegate Abbitt at one of the completed stream bank stabilization sites.



VOLUNTEER LEADERS

No week long, labor intensive camp would be successful without dedicated volunteers.



Sherry Ragland with Peter Francisco Soil & Water Conservation District and Ruth Wallace the Extension Agent/4-H for Virginia Cooperative Extension-Buckingham County served as co-directors.



Mark Chambliss and Rose Payne were the camp's EMT's and were also small group leaders.

Cathy Liggon is the Extension Agent/4-H for Virginia Cooperative Extension—Lunenburg County and was a small group leader.



Greg Wallace is a James River State Park Staff member who was our river guide for the canoeing and tubing trips as well as the camp bus driver and night hike leader.



Casey Dunkum (Standing) and Chris Bolt (Seated) were Summer Interns with the Peter Francisco Soil & Water Conservation District. They served as small group leaders.



Jodi Maxey, Allen McReynolds, Scott Schrader, and Theresa Hall are community volunteers who were cabin monitors and small group leaders. Allen also was a camp bus driver.



Jodi Maxey, parent of a participant as well as a small group leader, wrote this letter to the Editor of the Farmville Herald.

An Outstanding Environmental Camp

Editor, The Herald:

I would like to share information about an outstanding environmental education camp available for Virginia high school students that is held here in central Virginia. Because last year was its initial week, many future conservationists are unaware of its existence. Through the creativity and year and a half efforts of Ruth Wallace, Buckingham County extension agent and Sherry Ragland, agent of the Peter Francisco Soil and Water Conservation District, the camp is offered at James River State Park in Buckingham County. The official name is "ALIVE by the James." It is a six-day residential program for students chosen by their school districts. Campers reside in deluxe cabin facilities and participate in hands-on classes such as macro-invertebrate investigations, soil studies, deciphering topography maps, and inventorying forest plots. The students documented their activities with journals they kept using computer and photography equipment provided by the camp and by using art materials from home. Prizes were awarded for various categories such as watercolor renderings.

One of the highlights of the week was a surprise visit from House of Delegates Member Watkins Abbitt, Jr. who inspected the two sites where the campers had worked arduously to deter future stream bank erosion and to repair damaged areas. The visit was especially meaningful because Mr. Abbitt worked relentlessly to get the state park established here several years ago. An avid outdoorsman and conservationist, Delegate Abbitt inspired the campers with his enthusiasm for learning about our environment and the career possibilities that are available.

As a local science teacher, I was impressed with the line-up of experts from around the state who drove out to the park to offer their help. It was certainly a week that my son Barrett and I will never forget. My deepest thanks are extended to all the people who made this camp possible. It is wonderful to have such a gorgeous state park right here in our backyard. I encourage you all to come out and enjoy it.

Jodi Maxey
Buckingham

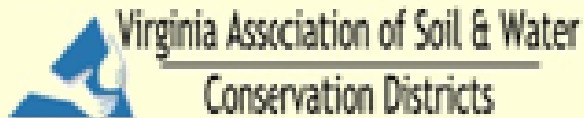


Maren a camp participant wrote in her follow-up report this statement, *"I have developed new skills and interests: leadership, a renewed interest in the environment, and a new awareness of how I affect my environment and how it affects me. Attending the ALIVE by the James program has greatly impacted my life. I find myself being much more conscious of my actions and the actions of those around me.... I find within myself a greater passion to make a difference and know that I can, thanks to the knowledge and guidance of my mentors from ALIVE by the James."*

COLLABORATORS



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Resource Conservation & Development
Making a difference in Southside Virginia



Virginia State Parks



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