

BETWEEN FRIENDS

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF HUNGRY MOTHER STATE PARK

June, 2009

A Message from Jim Kelly—

The lake dredging is finally finished & our summer season is officially underway. Although the lake is not completely filled, we did open the boat dock & beach this past weekend. With a little extra rain, the lake should fill quickly for it is only a few inches below full pond. Fishing should improve significantly in the upper end of the lake, around the boat dock, & at the boat ramp area because of the dredging & the extra fish structures installed by Glenn & Jeff's crews. Also, the water quality in those areas looks much better. Angler Environmental, the dredging contractor, is now in the process of cleanup & repair of roads & areas disturbed by the dredging process. Hopefully, we will be able to repave the entire width of the roads damaged by trucks hauling material to the disposal area instead of just having a multitude of patches.

Because of the increase in weddings scheduled in the park this summer, "Music in the Park" has been rescheduled for Friday nights instead of Saturday. This eliminates a conflict we have had with people wanting to have weddings & receptions at the gazebo & Restaurant later in the afternoon or evening.

Forrest just returned from a week of fire training in Chattanooga, TN. Because of the current travel restrictions on state employees, we are much appreciative of the "Friends" stepping in & backing this training for Forrest until we were able to confirm that he would be allowed to go with state funding. He would not have been able to do so without your

support. He said the training was excellent.

The "Women's Wellness Weekend" was a big success. We have heard nothing but praise for the event. Your participation & support was vital to its success.

The much needed extension on the boat ramp that you funded & members worked on will be a real asset for fishermen in the future.

As I think of all that the "Friends" do to support the park, whether it is volunteering with our interpretive programming, building picnic tables (Ron McCord, Clyde Hoots, Russ Hauver, John Taminger, and William Hester), working the contact station, buying playground equipment, supporting special projects, or selling stinky fish food, you truly enhance & enrich the experience of our park guests & ours staff. I trust that it is as rewarding to you as well. We have a unique partnership that speaks well of our community.

Thank you & I wish everyone an eventful & enjoyable summer.

Jim Kelly, District Manager

What does the Hungry Mother State Park staff do?

The answer to the above question is: "A lot!". Those who attended the Public Meeting to review the update of the Hungry Mother State Park 20 year Master Plan on April 13 should have been amazed and proud of all that has been accomplished to date. Friends, neighbors, and staff of Hungry Mother, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation officials listened intently and made

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many helpful comments. Public input is very important and is considered for inclusion in the plan at DCR headquarters in Richmond. “We can’t build it unless it’s in the master plan,”

said John Davy, DCR Director of Planning and Recreation Resources.

Park Manager Chris Doss gave an impressive power point presentation which highlighted many of the projects Park staff has completed such as 26 kitchen renovations, 9 bathroom renovations, paving of all parking areas, re-staining of 17 cabins, addition of 18 new dressers in cabins, installation of new water lines, and 23 new cabin roofs. A Trail Master Plan was completed in July of 2005. These plans entailed training the staff and contracting with Trail Dynamics. Then the actual work began with numerous re-routes, name changes for simplicity, new signage, and new and improved trail heads.

Work continues on all the campgrounds with new bathhouses, playground equipment, and shelters planned. Much work has been done at Camp Burson since it was purchased in 2005 through a bond issue, which the Friends supported with their lobbying efforts. The Friends have also helped with many “hands-on” projects at Camp Burson such as the building of picnic tables in 2008/2009, planting trees in conjunction with an after-school project, and the spreading of gravel at campsites. Park staff have also improved the pads for tent camping in Campground C. The list of projects goes on and on. The staff certainly deserve our congratulations and continued support.

Friends annual meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2009.

The Friends annual meeting will be a potluck supper at Shelter 1 at 6:00 p.m. Plan on bringing a friend and a covered dish for an evening of fun and fellowship. New officers for the 2009/2010 year will be elected. We thank John Styron and all the outgoing officers for their leadership this past year.

The proposed slate of new officers is as follows:

President: John Taminger
1st Vice President: Sam Burkett
2nd Vice President: Clayborne Gwyn
Treasurer: Anna Johnston
Secretary: Carrie Sparks
1 yr. Director: Bill Hurlbaus
1 yr. Director: Katherine Russell
2 yr. Director: Joyce Mills
2 yr. Director: Buddy Cummings

Nominations will also be taken from the floor (with the person’s permission).

Dues are now due.

The 2009/2010 membership year begins July 1. Dues for an individual are \$10, family--\$15, Community Friend--\$16 and up, Business Friend--\$50 and up, Corporate Friend--\$200 and up, and Benefactor Friend--\$500 and up.

Give your dues to Anna Johnston, Treasurer, at a meeting or mail your dues to: Friends of Hungry Mother State Park, P.O Box 362, Marion, VA 24354.

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The Women's Wellness Weekend was a great success!

Hungry Mother State Park was chosen to host the very first Women's Wellness Weekend on April 24-26, 2009. Amy Atwood coordinated this special event with help from co-workers, park staff from HMSP and other parks, DCR, and Friends. Programs included camping, fishing, hiking, nature journaling, kayaking and canoeing, herbs and plants, to name a few.

"Friends" Carrie Sparks, Mary Alice Hardin, and Brenda Gwyn presented programs. Carrie also headed the Friends' team to provide a healthy breakfast each day. We made lots of muffins!

We also wish to thank the General Dynamics Employee Community Action Council for awarding the Friends a grant to help purchase supplies for the weekend activities. These community minded employees have helped us in the past with various projects, and we certainly appreciate their support.

The Youth Conservation Corps will arrive at Hungry Mother June 21.

The Youth Conservation Corps will soon arrive at Hungry Mother. These teenagers come to help Park staff and to learn a variety of new skills. When they arrive on Sunday, June 21, Park staff plan to have a picnic to welcome them, and they hope some of the Friends will come out and join them.

Mark your calendars!

The Hungry Mother Arts & Crafts Festival is scheduled for July 17, 18, and 19. It's a great way to spend a day or the weekend. Parking

fees at the festival are \$6 per day or a weekend pass is \$9. Parking is free for volunteers. Volunteers are needed to help vendors set up on Thursday, July 16. During the Festival, volunteers are needed to staff the Friends' Information Booth and to assist visitors and vendors as needed. Call Judy Taminger at 783-2905 to sign up.

Reminders:

1. *There will be no Friends meeting in July because of the Festival. "Music in the Park" is now on Friday nights—not Saturday. Bring your lawn chairs and come on out. Fridays 8 p.m. – 9 p.m.*

Friends of Hungry Mother State Park
P.O. Box 362
Marion, VA 24354