



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Wendy Austin

Phone: 804-543-0325

Email: [Austinwam@gmail.com](mailto:Austinwam@gmail.com)

## FOLAR Adds New Activities to 2017 Appomattox RiverFest

“A Day of Family Fun and Adventure Celebrating Our River - Heritage - Nature - Recreation”

### FISH, PADDLE, CLIMB, EXPLORE, HIKE, PICNIC, AND MORE!

Petersburg, VA– **On Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>** Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR) presents the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Appomattox RiverFest with co-sponsor Fort Lee bringing exciting new outdoor activities! This day long family event is for nature lovers, birders, history buffs, outdoor enthusiast and everyone who wants to spend a beautiful day outdoors enjoying the scenic and historic treasures of the Appomattox River!

From 10AM - 3PM at the Appomattox Riverside Park, 24909 Ferndale Road, Petersburg VA 23803 – at the rocky rapids where Dinwiddie, Petersburg and Chesterfield meet - RiverFest will offer these activities and more:

- Obstacle course and climbing wall with Fort Lee
- Youth Fishing workshops, provided by Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries
- Kayaking workshops with certified instructors
- Archaeological activities and demonstrations with Fort Lee archaeologists
- For nature lovers - view rare fauna along the trails with a Master Naturalist
- See and learn about the fish, reptiles, amphibians, bugs and birds that help keep the river healthy with Environment Education Specialists and Thunder Eagle Wildlife Rescue
- Stroll or ride a Tram along the River Walk Trail that provides great views of the river
- Learn the history of the River and Batteau with the Virginia Canals and Navigation Society
- Food Trucks and Live Music by the Fort Lee Band and Mike Packer & Johnny Holt!



Program contributors include: Fort Lee, VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, VA Department of Forestry, VA Master Naturalist, Pocahontas Chapter, Dinwiddie Master Gardeners, Parks and Recreation Departments, Virginia Navigations & Canals Society, Thunder Eagle Wildlife Rescue, Appomattox River Soil and Water Conservation District, Virginia American Water, Matoaca Village History, Prince George County Regional Heritage Center, Virginia Canals and Navigation Society, and more!

There will be plenty of parking with shuttle buses running throughout the day at four locations:

- Bank of McKenney, (6300 River Rd., Petersburg VA 23803)
- Matoaca Baptist Church (6409 River Rd., Petersburg VA 23803);
- Matoaca Elementary School (6627 River Rd, Petersburg, VA 23803); and
- Matoaca United Methodist Church (6301 River Rd., South Chesterfield VA 23803)

The event is free and open to the public thanks to our sponsors including the John Randolph Foundation, Appomattox River Soil and Water Conservation District, Virginia American Water, Vulcan Materials, WestRock, Walmart Petersburg Distribution Center, Container First Services, Harlan Construction, and Hopewell Recreation & Parks.

Additional information can be found at [www.folar-va.org](http://www.folar-va.org) or [Facebook](#), or email, [GetInvolved@folar-va.org](mailto:GetInvolved@folar-va.org) or by calling (804) 543-0325.

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### **About FOLAR**

Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR) is the only organization in the Tri-Cities and surrounding counties dedicated to conserving and protecting the natural, cultural and recreational resources along the Lower Appomattox River. FOLAR has served the region as a registered 501c3 nonprofit organization since 2001 working to develop river stewardship, improve parks, establish trails, access the river, and protect special places. Additional information can be found on the FOLAR website, [www.folar-va.org](http://www.folar-va.org), or by contacting FOLAR's Executive Director Wendy Austin at [austinwam@gmail.com](mailto:austinwam@gmail.com); 804-861-1666 office; or 804-543-0325 cell. Photo contact: Ken Newman; [Kennewman@hotmail.com](mailto:Kennewman@hotmail.com)



*Caption, Above: Appomattox Riverside Park pedestrian bridge and park building - site of 2017 RiverFest! Photos by FOLAR.*



*Caption, Left: RiverFest Fishing Workshop*



*Caption, Right: Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Display at RiverFest*