

# THE VOYAGEUR



[www.BlueRidgeVoyageurs.org](http://www.BlueRidgeVoyageurs.org)

January 2011

## THE PRESIDENT'S PUT-IN

It has not been boater friendly on our local waters lately. Hopefully we will have a January Thaw to entice the removal of cobwebs and dust from the paddles and boats that are languishing in various modes of storage. Rumor has it that some enterprising member(s) (read: "Evangelidi") have migrated south with the birds to a warmer clime to pursue manatees and gatorburgers. There is some really nice paddling in Florida that I'd like to explore sometime. It's warm there! Here is a website for those of you interested in this idea and need to escape from the winter doldrums:

[http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?](http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=g6pjohcab&v=001QYDB14zrJ4_6HSSmGIJGLEg5uzmgzYj1nhwG3xG7xYxNf6t15132-yzVQFtDK5HxB36qy3hY2FvBm3wJ-HIPStnu8keHcguPZ0BgI8CeFf7F8qXRXZ1Q9g%3D%3D)

[llr=g6pjohcab&v=001QYDB14zrJ4\\_6HSSmGIJGLEg5uzmgzYj1nhwG3xG7xYxNf6t15132-yzVQFtDK5HxB36qy3hY2FvBm3wJ-HIPStnu8keHcguPZ0BgI8CeFf7F8qXRXZ1Q9g%3D%3D](http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=g6pjohcab&v=001QYDB14zrJ4_6HSSmGIJGLEg5uzmgzYj1nhwG3xG7xYxNf6t15132-yzVQFtDK5HxB36qy3hY2FvBm3wJ-HIPStnu8keHcguPZ0BgI8CeFf7F8qXRXZ1Q9g%3D%3D)

Many thanks go to all who helped out at the Christmas party this past year. It was a great time. VP Mark Wray did a fantastic job organizing it this year. Preparations flowed as smooth as frogs' hair. Extra kudos goes to Mike Martin who did a yeoman's job as trip coordinator last year (continuing Jenny Thomas's fine tradition). And, in addition to his coordinator duties, he personally provided separate prizes to last year's trip leaders at the party in a separate door prize drawing. This was most generous; thanks again Mike. Let's keep the trips coming in the new season. Also, the present administration remains in place with no midterm "shellacking" to worry about. Thanks to everyone on the board, newsletter staff etc. for staying on.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 26, when Keith & Carolyn will be presenting their summer 2010 trip through the Canadian Maritime provinces. They spent four weeks car touring through New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland (but not Labrador). They had a great time seeing the many beautiful sites those provinces had to offer including Cape Breton Island, Gros Morne National Park, and the Bay of Fundy. There was very little river whitewater involved during the trip except for a couple of jet boat rides through the waves generated by the Bay of Fundy tides. But you can expect a lot of wonderful pictures and great tales about their adventure. See you on the 26th.

Rick

## 2011 "Trip Report"

by Ed Evengelidi

It might seem a bit premature to read about a trip report for 2011, but I'm trying to schedule some trips now such that I can then write a much more filled-in trip report after the fact. These trips are not the short ½ week to 2+ week trips that I often list on the schedule. These are longer trips that require more advanced preparation.

The first trip is my annual central Florida trip from mid December to mid January. Typically we paddle a mix of small flowing streams, sections of longer rivers and some tidal creeks with targeted wildlife – manatees,

*(Continued on page 2)*

## 2011 BRV Trip Calendar

Stay tuned for an email from Mike Martin about the BRV paddling calendar for 2011, or contact him at [imnostooge@yahoo.com](mailto:imnostooge@yahoo.com) if you can to volunteer to organize a trip or two. He can also be reached at home at 301-263-0386. The goal for this year is to post at least one trip each weekend from March through October, then see what shakes out.

Mike plans to post the first edition of the 2011 trip schedule on [www.blueridgevoyageurs.org](http://www.blueridgevoyageurs.org) in early February. For now he would especially like to hear from folks willing post an Ice Breaker trip that month, or a Couch Potatoes Spring Shakedown cruise in March. (If past is prologue, a few of these trips will find good to great paddling conditions. *See photo spread on pp. 4-5 — Ed.*)

Some trips didn't go off last year due to lack of water, or because a volunteer graciously threw a dart at the calendar but needed to change plans as the date approached, etc. In those cases, the folks who posted pick up trips by responding-to-all on the "BRV This Week" email list often filled in the gaps.

Whatever we wind up with, it would be great to hear from more people willing to schedule a trip or fill in a hole. Call it a Weekend Rain-Chaser, a Dealer's Choice, an extended out of town trip, or an easy local cruiser for which newbies are welcome, whatever. The important thing is for all of us to have plenty of options to enjoy being on the water this year.

Mike plans to fire up the "BRV This Week" email chain on a weekly basis in early March, to remind people about paddling opportunities, relay late-breaking developments, etc. January and February messages will be ad hoc.

If for some reason you haven't been receiving email from BRV, please be sure to designate a current email address with your membership renewal.

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### *TRIP REPORT (Continued from page 1)*

monkeys, etc. We start near Daytona and end up in the Withlacoochee forest via the Ocala forest. We can do the stunningly beautiful and well known creeks like Juniper, Alexander and Rock Springs or much more obscure creeks.

The second trip is a month of March paddling in slightly warmer climates. I've been going to southern Texas and paddling the Rio Grande and Pecos rivers but I'm willing to paddle either in Arkansas or Tennessee instead. Obviously this requires some advanced planning to figure out which state and which rivers to do.

The third trip is a month paddling the New River from the headwaters in North Carolina to its mouth in WV in mid summer. We do skip a few sections but essentially cover most of the watershed. Unlike the Florida trip, this trip and the prior trip includes a mix of flatwater and whitewater.

The last trip may conflict with the third trip depending on water levels, but I'd like to paddle three weeks in western Wyoming and Montana. I can do easy water or whitewater – depending on the mix of paddlers. Either the upper Snake or its whitewater tributaries starts this trip off on the right foot (think seeing the Tetons on your trips). Either way, the scenery is outstanding. We then sample some Montana rivers.

I can't imagine filling these trips with just BRV paddlers; so the trips will also include other paddling clubs from around the country. We may even throw in with another group already planning trips in these areas. Subsequent trip reports are not guaranteed but we guarantee a good mix of rivers and great paddling memories.

## Changes for 2011 Savage Releases

by Kevin Colburn

*[taken from the website of American Whitewater, dated 5 January 2011]*

Changes were just announced for the 2011 Savage River release program, which provides three recreational releases each year. The new schedule plans releases for June, July, and late September rather than July, August, and early September. The changes are intended to increase the storage of cold water for downstream sport fishing, and thus reduce the chances of releases being cancelled.

Once a valued whitewater boating destination, the dam on the Savage River eliminated almost all paddling opportunities for much of the past two decades. Negotiations between the dam managers, American Whitewater, American Canoe Association, and other stakeholders resulted in a new recreational release program that began in 2007.

The Savage River Dam is used for municipal water storage and flood control. The dam also creates reservoir bass fishing opportunities and downstream trout fishing opportunities. Downstream trout depend on the release of cold reservoir water throughout the summer. In recent years it was felt that August and early September paddling releases would unacceptably diminish that supply of cold water, triggering the cancellation of these releases. Providing releases earlier and later in the season when cold water is more readily available is anticipated to reduce the chances of cancellations.

The releases are sponsored by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Adventure Sports Center International in cooperation with the Upper Potomac River Commission.

**The 2011 Savage River release dates are 6/5, 7/3, and 9/25.** The schedule can be viewed here: <http://www.nab-wc.usace.army.mil/northBranch.html>

## New Chattooga Comment Opportunity and Video

by Kevin Colburn

*[taken from the website of American Whitewater, dated 20 December 2010]*

The US Forest Service has announced yet another 45 day comment period regarding paddling on the Upper Chattooga River, a form of outdoor recreation which they have banned on that section of river for 34 years. Their announcement states that all comments since 2005 will be considered, and are only seeking any new comments, information, or ideas.

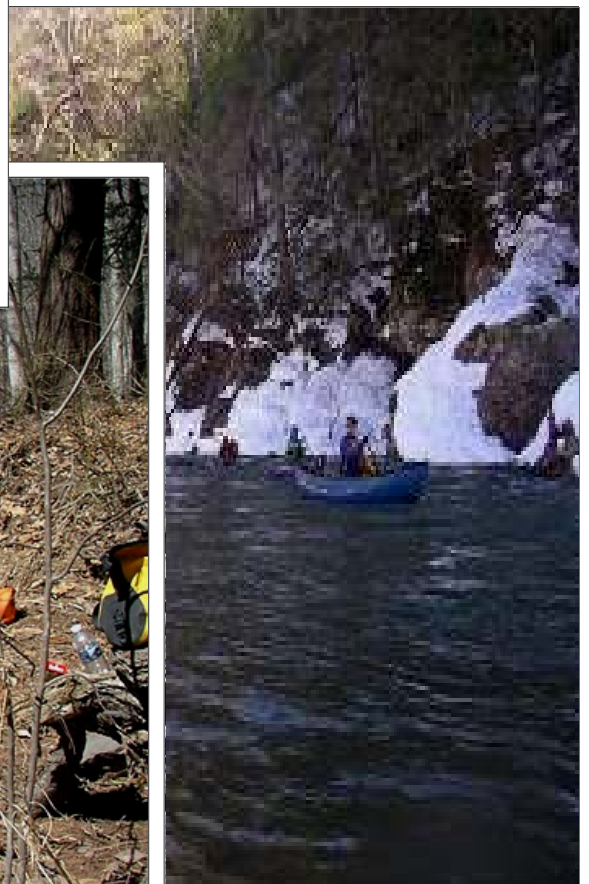
In late 2009 the USFS reached a new decision to ban paddling following at least 6 years of analysis. They almost immediately withdrew those decisions, cancelled their analysis, and scrapped all the pending appeals. Now, a full year later, they are trying to "re-initiate" that process. It is unclear what this means or what exactly the public is expected to comment on. The announcement sketches out their concept in broad terms that could reflect any amount of any use — from total bans to no limits whatsoever.

In an October 2010 court hearing, counsel for the USFS warned the court not to expect any outcome from this new USFS process except another boating ban. Thankfully, the court hearing was favorable for paddlers and the legality of any paddling ban — past, present, or future — will now undergo judicial scrutiny.

We encourage paddlers to read the USFS scoping letter ([http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/sumter/resources/documents/UpperChattoogaScopingLetter\\_000.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/sumter/resources/documents/UpperChattoogaScopingLetter_000.pdf)), which includes directions for commenting, and offer any comments you may have by January 24, 2011.



**Sideling Hill Creek, 6 March 2010.**  
*To whet your appetite for the early spring creekin' season just around the corner, here are Mike Martin's photos from last year's Couch Potato Spring Shakedown Cruise, led by Jenny Thomas.*





## Tree Cutting at Trump National Golf Course

*[taken from the website of The Potomac Conservancy, undated]*

Earlier this summer, Trump National Golf Course cut down more than 450 trees on the Virginia shoreline of the Potomac. Once protected, the now treeless land is now vulnerable to erosion and flooding. Unfortunately, unless the stumps are replaced with mature trees immediately, the damage over a rough winter will be hard to repair.



*Trump National Golf Club: Before and After*

Potomac Conservancy submitted a letter to Trump National Golf Course's General Manager (<http://www.potomac.org/site/wp-content/uploads/pdfs/TrumpGolfCourse.pdf>) recommending immediate replanting of trees closest to the river to replace those that were recently cut down to create a buffer for pesticides, fertilizers and stormwater runoff that can easily drain into the Potomac River. A mix of native trees and shrubs should also be planted to form a barrier between active golf course areas and the rest of the buffer to increase protection.

- **Contact Trump's environmental manager**, Ed Russo (ERusso@trumpnational.com), with your thoughts on the decimation of the river shoreline; call on him to replant trees now.
- **Read more about the loss of trees** at Trump National Golf Club in Washington Post (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/12/AR2010081206471.html>)
- **See an aerial "before & after" image** of Trump National Golf Course's shoreline: [http://www.potomac.org/site/wp-content/uploads/images/Trump\\_erial.jpg](http://www.potomac.org/site/wp-content/uploads/images/Trump_erial.jpg)

Even with a tight budget, Potomac Conservancy immediately swung into action. We contacted other groups, reached out to county officials and alerted our membership. But to see this through to a successful outcome, we need your support. Please donate today!

## Blue Ridge Voyageurs Membership Form

*Whitewater paddling is a risky outdoor sport. BRV is not responsible for any individual's decision to participate in the sport, or for his or her decision to run any river or section of river.*

**Annual Dues:** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$15.00 (newsletter sent via postal mail)**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **\$12.00 (newsletter emailed in .pdf format)**

### Optional Contribution to BRV River

**Conservation/Access Fund:** \$5.00 or \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to BRV. Mail to BRV Membership, c/o Frank Fico,  
 1609 Autumnwood Drive, Reston, VA 20194-1523.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone w/area code: (h)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **(work or cell)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check if interested in:**  **helping with moonlight picnic**  **providing a meeting program**  
 **helping with holiday party**  **leading trips**  **conservation/river maintenance**

## North Branch Potomac Report Links Water Quality with Recreational Economies by Kevin Colburn

*[taken from the website of American Whitewater, dated 6 January 2011]*

A report released today links acid mine drainage remediation on the North Branch of the Potomac River with significant regional economic benefits of angling and paddling. The Report, prepared by Downstream Strategies for the Maryland State Water Quality Advisory Committee, reveals a compelling and cautionary case study of the economic benefits of protecting and restoring rivers.

As many paddlers know, the North Branch of the Potomac was severely impacted by bright orange acidic mine drainage for much of the last half century. The North Branch was a "dead" stream, incapable of supporting fish or many other aquatic organisms. The infrastructure of the Jennings Randolph Dam had to be built with stainless steel to resist acidic corrosion. Beginning in the early 1990's, the State began building "dosers" that add limestone or other basic materials to impacted streams in the watershed to neutralize the acid. The results far exceeded expectations, and today the North Branch supports a native species, a robust trout fishery, and whitewater paddling.

The Report finds that angling and paddling related tourism results in direct regional spending of \$2.1 million and an economic benefit topping \$3 million. The annual cost of operating the dosers, which must continue to operate to protect the gains in water quality, is a relatively small \$321,000. As funding for the dosing program is anticipated to wane, this economic and environmental report will help justify the program's continuation.

This report offers a window into what most paddlers recognize — healthy rivers have incredible value: ecologically, recreationally, and economically. Read the report at [http://www.downstreamstrategies.com/Documents/reports\\_publication/amd-remediation-nbp\\_downstreamstrategies.pdf](http://www.downstreamstrategies.com/Documents/reports_publication/amd-remediation-nbp_downstreamstrategies.pdf)

## About the Blue Ridge Voyageurs (BRV)

The **BRV** is a voluntary association of experienced paddlers from the Washington, DC area. Club benefits include: trips for all skill levels (most at intermediate and advanced levels); BRV website and hotline for information and pick-up trips; *The Voyageur*, published 6 times a year; club roster, published yearly in March; holiday party; conservation projects; moonlight paddles & picnics; big trips to the Smokies, Canada, Europe, and Western rivers.

**Meetings:** BRV will hold meetings from 7-9 pm on the following dates in 2011: January 26, March TBD, May TBD, July TBD (Moonlight Picnic), September TBD, November TBD, December TBD (Holiday Party). Meetings are followed by beer and pizza at a nearby pub. Location: Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library on Leesburg Pike (Rt. 7) in Falls Church, VA. The library is on the east side of Rt. 7 about 0.6 miles south of I-495. Or, from I-66, take the Rt. 7 West exit and go about 0.6 miles west on Rt. 7. It's on the right.

**BRV Website:** The BRV website (<http://www.BlueRidgeVoyageurs.org>) provides information on trips, meetings, and other club events.

**2011 BRV Officers:** Rick Koller, President; Mark Wray, VP; Mike Martin & Daryl Hall, Trip Coordinators; Clark Childers, Treasurer; Frank Fico, Newsletter Editor; Kathleen Sengstock, Conservation.

**2011 Board of Directors:** Gus Anderson, Bill Collier, Ed Grove, Ron Knipling, Rick Koller, Wes Mills

### ***The Voyageur: Newsletter of the Blue Ridge Voyageurs***

*The Voyageur* publishes information on club events, conservation and safety news, the club trip schedule, and other news of interest to BRVers. Publishing **trip reports** is a particularly important newsletter function. Trip Coordinators are requested to write up all club trips - particularly trips to unusual or especially interesting rivers. Trip reports and other articles are accepted in any form: via electronic mail (preferred; send to [fico1@netzero.net](mailto:fico1@netzero.net)), on disk, typed, handwritten, faxed or over the phone. For trip reports, try to include the following information (if applicable): names of participants, relevant NWS gauge readings of nearby rivers, description of the water level on the river (e.g., minimum, moderate, maximum, or number of inches above or below "zero"), weather conditions, hazards, difficult rapids, info on put-ins or takeouts, distinctive scenery, and overall difficulty in relation to rivers well known to BRVers. New information about the river (e.g., new hazards) is particularly important. **Photos** are also published. Send prints to the webmaster or e-mail digital photos to the newsletter editor.

Address changes: contact Frank Fico, 1609 Autumnwood Dr., Reston, VA 20194-1523, (703) 318-7998, [fico1@netzero.net](mailto:fico1@netzero.net). The annual roster will be kept current via updates published in each issue of *The Voyageur*.

Membership applications/renewals: submit to Frank Fico. Must renew by February 15 each year to be listed on club roster and continue receiving *The Voyageur*.



### ***The Voyageur***

c/o Frank Fico  
1609 Autumnwood Drive  
Reston, VA 20194-1523

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**Deadline for March *Voyageur*:**  
Friday, March 4th

**NEXT MEETING**  
**Wednesday, January 26th**

**LAST CHANCE TO RENEW FOR 2011!** If your mailing label says 2010, this is your final newsletter unless you renew now (use the form on page 7).