

THE VOYAGEUR



www.BlueRidgeVoyageurs.org

July 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S PUT-IN

Lots of BRV'ers are out of town enjoying the more exotic whitewater destinations, as is customary at this time of year, and I look forward to hearing the tall tales and seeing meeting presentations. The various Yough segments are also great cooling attractions and still available as of this writing. The Savage has releases scheduled this summer and I managed to take advantage of the June release on a Shredder with Lou Campagna. A lot of fun it was too.

The annual BRV moonlight picnic is scheduled for August 4th this year; stay tuned for VP Mark's announcements concerning the usual details for this. Hope folks get a chance to come out, it's always a nice time.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 11. I will be announcing the entertainment at a later date.

Have fun out there and keep an eye on the BRV trip email list for ad hoc last minute trips.

Rick

ROSTER UPDATE

Robert & Caroline Kuhfahl
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2012 BRV Moonlight Picnic

LOCATION: The usual **Violette's Lock/Virginia Canal Loop**, off River Road, north of Potomac, MD.

DATE: **Saturday, August 4, 2012**

TIME: Meet at Violette's Lock parking lot at **5:00 PM**. Canoe/kayak departure at approximately 5:30 PM; return to Violette's Lock approximately 10:30 PM (or whenever you like).

BRING: Food (see below), blanket/chairs as desired, water, bug repellent, flashlight(s).

FOOD: Bring a dish to feed at least eight people, as follows:

A-G: salads, uncooked veggies, fruit dish

H-N: desserts, snacks

O-Z: pasta, casserole, cooked veggies, rice, etc.

Be sure to bring serving utensils for your dish, if needed. BRV will provide chicken, drinks (soda, wine and beer — approximately two per person).

COST: **\$5** for adults, **\$3** for children 2-12 years old, **free** for those under 2.

RSVP: BRV Board members will be contacting all DC-area members. RSVP to your caller or to Mark Wray at 703-222-4842 by **Thursday, August 2nd**.

CAMPING: It is permissible to camp at the picnic site, so if you would like to do so, bring your gear. There are usually some who camp, so you won't be alone.

PARKING: Parking at Violette's Lock is unrestricted, but there is little police surveillance. This has not been a high theft location in the past, but please do not leave valuables in your vehicles!

Class III My Ass Vacation! by Scott Gravatt

Several years after moving to Connecticut in 2002, Scott and Denise Gravatt started leading an annual spring boating vacation. We had met and paddled with many New England boaters during our first few years in Connecticut, and discovered most had never been south to the Mecca of whitewater in West Virginia and the southeast. So we started inviting NE boaters to come south with us and join up with BRVers for some rivers that do not require breaking through ice to run!

Our trips were interrupted in 2009 because Scott had rotator cuff surgery followed by months of recovery. But not to worry, Keith Merkel stepped in and continued the tradition for us. In truth, Keith had been the *consigliere* on our previous trips, so it was natural for him to steal our trip, I mean, fill in for us during Scott's convalescence. In 2010, family obligations usurped our southern trip, and we ended up taking a mid-summer trip to Canada instead, running the Rouge, Gatineau, Ottawa, and others. In 2011, Scott was back on the operating table for shoulder #2.

Finally, as the spring of 2012 approached, we felt like we could handle a trip to the southern rivers, as long as we held the difficulty down to Class III+ or less. We blasted out an email to a bunch of boaters, and, as is the nature of boaters, no one wanted to commit. We also discovered we had picked the same week as Richard Hopley's trip. We were just about to commit to joining Richard's trip when a few New Englanders decided to

sign up with us, and suddenly we had a core group for our trip.

Participants: Rick Koller and Lou Campagna came out and paddled with us for the first day, and then headed home. Steve Guyer and Martha Kegeles, a couple from Massachusetts, paddled the entire week. Keith Merkel and Bob Maxey missed the first day, and then stayed with us the rest of the trip. Also joining us on Day 2 were Marc Bleicher and his 15 year old daughter, Kyra, who live in Massachusetts. So starting on Sunday, May 12, there were 8 boaters: Scott, Denise, Keith, Bob, Steve, Martha, Marc, and Kyra. All were K1s, except Scott, OC1.

The plan was to head down to North Carolina and Tennessee, catching a couple of rivers along I-81 on the way.

Day 1 (Saturday): Staircase – There were few choices that fit the criteria of being close to I-81 with enough water to run. We opted for the Staircase, which was more of an exercise in sliding your boat over wet rocks than running whitewater. The level was about 2.7. Although, there was one interesting twist. Most everyone knows that Scott is a hardcore open boater. Shocking as it may seem, Scott has bought a kayak and is trying to become proficient. What to say? He's getting older and thinking he may not be able to move an open boat around the river, or carry the beast for too many more years. So Scott paddled his kayak on the Staircase, and as usual provided the

entertainment by swimming most of White Horse. In the end, everyone had a good time and the river made for a nice, mellow warm-up run.

Day 2 (Sunday): Balcony Falls section of the James – Once again we were faced with essentially one river to choose from. It was interesting because it was a first-time run for the entire group, except Keith, but he had no memory from his run in the 1980's. The water was low, and after paddling through the mighty Balcony Falls, we looked back and asked, "Was that it?" Scott paddled his kayak again, but this time without incident. The rapids were not much, but the scenery was nice and the river gave us a chance to get the winter kinks out.

Sunday evening drive: At this point the week's group was all together. Four vehicles caravanned for the next several hours through spotty rain down to the Nolichucky Gorge Campground, near Erwin, TN. If the rain had been heavier, we might have opted for a motel, but it held off and we set our tents up in the dark. Overnight there was some heavy rain, and an occasional train, but we were so tired it didn't matter.

High-Tech trip: In the old days we would watch the six o'clock news and guess at which river to paddle. Then came the USGS real-time gauges, followed by the AW site with its wealth of information. On this trip there were two smart phones, an iPad, an Android tablet



wind down and relax [see photo at left]. Marc grilled a bunch of ribs and others pitched in with side dishes. We ate like pigs and then sat around a nice campfire. Little did we know this was about the only time during the entire “vacation” that we had time to relax.

Day 4 (Tuesday): Big Laurel Creek – Tuesday morning the iPhones and iPads were humming once again. Keith *really* wanted to do something called Big Laurel Creek in North Carolina, but the correlation gauge indicated it was too low. We also thought it was even more of a departure from our plans to “notch it down a level”. The decision was made to break camp and drive down to the Pigeon and catch the Tuesday release. But then fate met high-tech. Our GPSs told us to take a series of back roads, and we dutifully followed. As we drove along, we realized we would be driving by the put-in for Big Laurel Creek. Why not stop and take a look? At the put-in, there is a painted gauge that said there were a few inches of water, and two locals getting ready to put on said they would wait for us to get ready. A snap decision was made to run it.

OMG! Big Laurel is a small, very difficult, steep creek. The warm up is a simple two foot ledge drop. Bob, Marc and I all flipped and rolled running this ledge. Not a good start. The action started heating up and quickly became serious. The rapids came so fast and furious, I cannot provide an adequate description. There were a few mishaps on this river, but the most se-

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and a couple of GPSs. We also made sure each car had a walkie-talkie, which are indispensable when caravanning hither and yonder, and also good for many laughs along the way!

Monday morning found us checking the gauges, to see what the previous night’s rain had done. Our best choice still looked like the Nolichucky, even though there was concern about it rising too high while we were on it.

Day 3 (Monday): Nolichucky – We made arrangements with the camp manager (“JD”) for two drivers. We cross-loaded boats and all piled into two vehicles, and headed over the mountain to the put-in. The drivers brought our cars back to the campground. (Well worth the \$20 per driver, except for the unexplained tipped-over ice chest in the back of my truck!) The Nolichucky was about 1700 cfs and rising. (And the gauge is far downstream.)

At the beginning of the run we established a paddling order that generally stayed intact all week. As always, Keith served as our probe boat. Marc usually followed Keith, with Kyra next in line. Denise and Martha fell in next, with Scott and Bob behind them. Steve did a great job serving as our sweep boat. The meat of the Nolichucky is in the first two miles, but that was more than enough to exhilarate everyone. My memory was that the Nolichucky was generally Class III+, but that memory must have been based on lower water levels. I think the level must have been considerably higher than I had ever run before. Denise and I had advertised this trip as Class III+/-, and all of a sudden we were blasting through very challenging Class III+ and IV- rapids. By the time we got to the take out, we were thoroughly spent.

As planned, we stayed at the Nolichucky Gorge Campground a second night. Since the take out is at the campground, we had time to

MY ASS (Continued from page 3)
rious of them happened at the most identifiable rapid, Stairsteps, a violent three tiered drop. Denise flipped somewhere in the middle of the drops, and in the final hole/drop, while still upside down, her head was crunched between a rock and her kayak. She bow rolled via Marc's boat, and it took a while for the fog to clear. After a rest/lunch break, she declared herself able to continue, and fortunately this turned out to be a not too serious injury.

After over three miles of excitement on Big Laurel, we were dumped out onto the French Broad River for the final three-plus miles. The French Broad was running at 5000 cfs. Do I need to say it? 5000 cfs is a freaking lot of water! The water was brown, and even the flatwater had waves. There are two big rapids in this stretch, Kayakers Ledge and Frank Bells. Several of our group ran Kayaker's Ledge. Marc led Kyra over the far right of



the dam drop to avoid the center keeper hole, and bow pinned after losing momentum at the lip. While the others watched this very tense situation, Kyra paddled the perfect line to the left of hapless Marc. Marc self-rescued after about a minute. Keith and one of the local boaters leading us down the river were the only ones to run Frank Bells Rapid. The sane members of the group took sneak channels for both of these big water rapids. The take out was a welcome sight!

Tuesday evening drive: After the Big Laurel run, we considered our options for the rest of the week. Stay in North Carolina and Tennessee, working our way further away from home, or drive north to West Virginia where the rains had hit

many of our favorite rivers. West Virginia won, and we started driving north. The group made it as far as Beckley, where we collapsed into a Super 8 motel.

Day 5 (Wednesday): Cranberry River –Wednesday we were hoping to catch the Williams, but it was dropping toward zero quickly. However, the Cranberry was looking ideal. Again, this was not a river that fit our plan for a Class III trip, but the vote was unanimous. The Cranberry was running at a perfect level of about 3.9, and the weather was beautiful. Bob took the day off, so there were seven of us in the group. We zigged and zagged down this complicated and challenging river, everyone doing a great job of hitting the must-make moves and narrow lines. Five of the seven boats ran Cranberry Twist, which was very exciting, as always.

Wednesday evening: From the Cranberry we drove to Holly River State Park to camp. It was late, and once again cooking in camp was a hopeless dream, so after a dinner stop in Webster Springs, we arrived in camp well after dark. At this point we had all paddled three very tough rivers, and driven far too many miles. The group was exhausted, and Denise and I started hearing the term "death march" muttered behind our backs. Ah, the joys of chasing the best whitewa-



Typical scenery on the Cranberry.



Left, top to bottom: Marc on the Cranberry, Scott running the Cranberry Twist, Steve clears the toughest part of the Twist.

ter!

Day 6 (Thursday): Buckhannon River – EVERYONE in the group DEMANDED a “down day”, so on Thursday morning we were looking over the gauges for an easy river to kick back on. The Buckhannon was running, and you would think we would have chosen the easy section from Alton to Tenmile. But at the end of the dither, we found ourselves putting on at Tenmile to run the III/IV section down to Sago. Here we go again. The range for this section is 7.0 to 11.0, and our run was around 7.5, which gave us plenty of water without being pushy. It should be noted that Sago was the site of a tragic mine explosion and collapse in 2006, which killed 12 miners. In the course of the day we ran into two locals, and both impressed upon us the solemn feeling the locals have toward this area.

In general, the river is not that hard, but there are five places that can ruin your day. (I have notes. Email me if you want details.) The guide book helped out with a description of the first bad spot, a sort of natural dam. Keith remembered the natural dam and the next two hard rapids, and led us through. The fourth serious obstacle is a steep drop into a grabby hole, which grabbed Martha. She flipped around in the hole, rolled herself upright, and surfed it for a long time, long enough for two of us to scramble back up to her with

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MY ASS (Continued from page 5)
throw ropes. The ropes weren't needed, as she was able to work herself out of the hole, flipping in the process.

The final serious rapid should be scouted and possibly walked. There are several very ugly and dangerous slots on river right that are completely impassable, although this cannot be seen from above. The left side offers the only safe routes. Over on the right side of the river, Bob pinned, and thankfully was able to extricate himself out of his kayak before it slipped into a crack between two rocks. Bob's paddle was also stuck in the crack, sticking vertically out of the water. Scott and Bob were able to get a loop of rope around the paddle, and finally worked it out of the snake's grasp. The boat was another story. After numerous failed attempts, we seriously considered giving up, which would have meant Bob walking out. But we kept trying the ropes at different angles, and after about an hour, we were able to free the boat. It was quite an effort, but it was all worth it in the end, because Bob bought dinner for everyone! Thursday evening: We had dinner in Buckhannon at a really good Mexican restaurant, then went back to our tents at Holly River State Park, and passed out.

Day 7 (Friday): The Tygart Loop
– Unfortunately, Marc and Kyra had to start driving toward home (Massachusetts). They missed the river, but we heard they had a great

Right, top to bottom: Kyra punches the hole that grabbed Martha, Bob on the Buckhannon, the rapid now known as "Bob's Crack"



time on rented jet skis on Deep Creek Lake, and they then hit the whitewater park at ASCI, near the Upper Yough, on Saturday, before their long drive home.

The Tygart Loop is a Class II/III section of the Tygart, upstream of the Gorge. AW lists this section as Aggregates to Beaver Creek, but you can cut off a very slow first half by putting in near Norton. A local paddler saw three vehicles loaded down with boats wandering around aimlessly, and kindly led us to the put in under the Rt. 151 bridge. That saved us about 20 minutes of additional wandering. Zero for this run is 3.5, and the level was 4.3, so we had plenty of water. This was in fact an extremely pleasant day on a non-threatening river. The weather was beautiful, and everyone was able to relax and enjoy the scenery and the water (unlike the previous four days!) The one notable rapid is called Twin Giants. There are house sized boulders in the river as you approach the rapid, and you need to watch out for wood in the chutes between these boulders. The main part of the rapid is unmistakable, with its giant rocks the size of three story buildings on each side of the river. Between these two rocks, crisscrossing waves running over shallow slab-rocks create a good Class III rapid. Friday evening: Once off the river, it was only about a half hour drive to Audra State Park, where we camped for the night. I grilled pork loins and while Denise got the side dishes ready, and we all feasted.

Day 8 (Saturday): Top Yough – After checking the gauges, we were all set to do the Arden section of



Keith, somewhere in Swallow Falls

the Tygart, but then Keith noticed that the Top Yough was running. How exciting! I remember the Top Yough. It's wonderful, and my memory told me that it was not too hard. I must have the beginnings of Alzheimer's! We drove to Swallow Falls State Park, and knew we had picked the right river when we saw about 30 other boaters there. The level was low, about 225 cfs. (The range is 180 to 1000 cfs.) Bob remarked that the river is much harder at lower levels. He was dead on. Keith ran Swallow Falls cleanly, while the rest of us walked it. Swallowtail Falls is shortly downstream, where Martha and I both flipped and rolled. After that, the river picks up quickly. You have no choice but to make precision moves on the fly in heavy whitewater. The water bounded over rocks and through chutes, and the slightest miscue would mean a flip, and rolling up in the turbulence was an iffy proposition at best. Martha took a couple of

swims and we were lucky to catch her boat before it disappeared too far downstream. She was not having a good day and made the wise choice to walk off. Not wanting to leave Martha hiking on her own in the middle of nowhere, Steve joined her.

That left four of us on the river. The rapids did not let up. Continuous Class III+ feels a lot like Class IV, and then all of a sudden you would find yourself running a true Class IV. Keith did a great job as probe, being the only one with a vague recollection of the rapids. To me, the Upper Yough seems easier, because the rapids all have names and we have memorized the routes. On this river we were paddling blind into the unknown, and simply had to handle whatever came up. Thankfully some other boaters warned us that we were approaching Suck Hole. Keith ran it clean. Denise and Bob walked it. I

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MY ASS (Continued from page 7)
 was sure I could run it clean. I had my route picked out, and everything went fine, for the first 10 feet, then it all went to hell. My flip was so violent that I got disoriented, and all I could think of was the dreaded Suck Hole sieve. I panicked and punched out. Fortunately I was able to swim to an eddy before being swept into the big hole near the end of the rapid. After Suck Hole there is another long stretch (mile?) of tough whitewater. Denise had a swim, I smashed my thumb doing a rock brace, and Bob had a flip and roll. We all made it to the take out, humbled but happy.



Scott crawls from the wreckage while his boat runs Suck Hole rapid without him.

This was a fantastic trip that challenged everyone. It was definitely not the Class III trip we had envisioned. Denise and I especially had not paddled serious Class IV water for quite some time, and we were not thinking that we would be doing so on this trip. Kyra was introduced to Southern boating at its best, and she also did a fantastic job of tolerating a vacation

with a bunch of old fogies! Everyone on the trip was blown away by the level of intensity, and the need to be on top of your game day after day. Denise and I bagged 4 new rivers, and even Keith and Bob paddled some rivers for the first time. The group got along great, in spite of the stress of driving long hours and boating over our heads. We only hope that next year again brings us more great Southern rivers to run!

The New River Challenge Triathlon, September 15th

[taken from an unsolicited email announcement]

My name is Steve Boyd and I'm the special events coordinator for Virginia State Parks. We have a great event called The New River Challenge coming up on September 15th, and I would like to invite you and the members of the Blue Ridge Voyageurs to attend. The Challenge is a 40 mile bike ride, a 12.1 mile kayak run, and a half marathon along the scenic New River Trail. The triathlon is a timed, competitive event but many of our athletes do it as a "fun run". Most participants do the Challenge as a two or three person team, or you can do it solo if you wish. Afterwards, we have music, food, displays from local merchants and activities for the kids. It's a great event in a beautiful setting, and everyone always leaves happy knowing they've completed something special while supporting our great Virginia State Parks system.

Check out our website at http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/nrtc.shtml for more details. Hope to see you there!

Steve Boyd
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From the (E)Mail Bag...

On Tue, 5 Jun 2012 19:37:09 -0400 David Garrity <dggarrity@live.com> writes:

Old friends *y amigos nuevos*

Unfortunately, while on a previously planned trip to the United States I became seriously ill. Racked with pain, chills and fever I was admitted to Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, MD. At that time my major organs were all shutting down. Apparently, I am suffering from some sort of auto-immune illness similar to lupus.

Yesterday, I was finally released from the hospital after 2.5 weeks. The good news is that my liver and kidneys are now working again even though I have some fluid on my lungs and around my heart. Unfortunately, they are controlling the symptoms with large dosages of prednisone. They assure me that my condition is manageable and with the correct cocktail of drugs I should be able to eventually resume a pretty normal life.

We will stay in the US until they have found the correct set of drugs. Then we will return to our home in central Mexico.

Please share this with anyone you think might be interested. While in the US my cell phone number is 301.580.6513.

Paz,
David Garrity

Frank,

You did a terrific job with the newsletter — especially with last minute entries. Looks like you went from famine to feast!

In your next issue, would you be able to credit Larry Lempert for his input into the Week of Rivers article? He not only supplied information, he supplied dramatic language. My apologies if I did not make the case for crediting him adequately.

Also, in case anyone asks:

1. The photo of Dave Cooke is from the New River (the section indicated in the e-mail title), and
2. The Scrabble word was *al*, not *ala*.

Also, if you could save the images I sent it would be great; I processed them at Kinko's, but they do not let you burn CDs, so I could not save them. Then I can drop them into a slide show program, ProShowGold, for use at a meeting.

Again, thank you for putting the newsletter together under such tight time constraints. You are awesome!

Beth

Kiskiminetas River Basin

by Ed Evangelidi

You might be saying like I used to say: "Kiski who?" Sounds like a place too far away to care about. But I'll bet if you are a seasoned paddler that you have paddled Stonycreek River, Pa. Aha! — now we be talking something familiar. And like Stony, there are other places here not too far away .worth visiting. The Kiski is "just up the road" from the equally underpaddled Juniata headwaters and the crowded lower Yough.

I'll bet that you will be paddling the Stony more often now that there are regularly scheduled releases from the Quemahoning Dam. Releases are expected to be roughly 500CFS and are in addition to the natural flow; so flows on the intermediate level run will vary each time. Check Bens Creek Canoe Club web page for release info and river info. I'll also bet that if you come here often, you will also want to see what else is in the area. Most paddlers will quickly learn about the Shade Creek steeper and creekier run (less playing) or the harder to catch and more difficult Dark Shade, Clear Shade or upper Stony. While perhaps the best of the Stony watershed runs, I will note that easier Quemahoning Creek and "middle Stony" from US 30 to Hollsopple are also worthy trips. Also consider adding a fine Class II paddle from the Stony normal takeout to Greenhouse Park whitewater Park on Rt. 403 to any trip. Whitewater Park? While not anywhere in the class of either of the 2 whitewater parks in Maryland, they are trying to continue to add river features and other amenities here. Rounding out the Stony basin are fine advanced-plus runs like Roaring Creek and Paint Creek. I'm not familiar with the many other Cl. IV-V runs like Findley Run or Richards Run.

O.K., now to more unfamiliar territory. Stony flows into the Conemaugh River and here we have beautiful orange water. I'll cover the main Conemaugh River later but do consider some of the whitewater, er.. orange water tributaries. The South Fork is the route of the 1889 flood. Just do not paddle the Little Conemaugh River into the Conemaugh as there is no way out of the dam hydraulic at the confluence. Next up northern trib. of the Conemaugh is the playful Blacklick Creek. If you like Stony but prefer a creek pretty

much to yourself – try Blacklick from Rt. 259 to US 119. Other tough to catch with enough water sections worth considering here is the South Branch and North Branch whitewater sections and mellower upper Blacklick and Two Lick. Forget the Yellow Creek section mentioned in the Canoeing Guide to Western Pennsylvania and Northern West Virginia book as it has changed for the worse. The next subbasin downstream (Loyalhanna River) has many tough to catch tribs. and a nice main section that will soon be a Pennsylvania state river trail.

Finally I come to the "reliable" paddling. I once got a message from Court Caldwell challenging me to come up with summer paddling here to go along with a great music festival that he had discovered. I first said "forgettaboutit" as I couldn't see any of the familiar runs coming up to paddleable volumes. But then I stumbled upon the 86 mile river trail here with at least the lower 35 miles being reliable and covered by outfitters and the upper section having some easy whitewater. See the Pennsylvania Water Trail web page for maps & info. Gauge minimums to consider are Ferndale 300CFS & Seward 400CFS for the upper sections and Tunnelton and Vandergrift @ 640CFS for the lower sections. The upper section features the 1560' deep Conemaugh Gorge and even more beautiful Packsaddle Gap as well as mighty Findley rapid and Robinson rapid. I find the 6 mi. run from the hard to find New Florence P.I. (follow a long dirt road on the north side of the railroad tracks) to Robinson/Bolivar to be unusually beautiful. The lower section of these rivers is flatter but very reliable and worthy of a multi day trip. Note that all except the lowermost T.O. do not require a PFBC boat permit to use.

I also highly recommend exploring the extensive Laurel Highlands backpacking trail and the Ghost Town, Hoodlebug and West Penn 70 mile rail trail complex. Recommended camping spots to consider are: Quemahoning Family CG on the Que reservoir, Nanty Glo town CG just off the bike trail and Yellow Creek SP. Come for more than just a day on the Stony.

“Rock Snot” Found in Lower Yough from an email forwarded by Beth Koller

Youghiogheny River is now confirmed to have *Didymo* (aka Rock Snot)! *Didymo* was found in Ohiopyle State Park near Ohiopyle, PA!

Erik L. Silldorff, PhD, Aquatic Biologist took a single sample in Ohiopyle State Park near Ohiopyle, PA (coordinates = 39.8752, -79.4956). Observed conditions: the large boulders had a series of more discrete tufts of *Didymo* growing at moderate length (~ 1 cm, so true “long-stalked” *Didymo*). The tufts of *Didymo* were not contiguous, so there was no “carpet-like” coverage in the river, and the growth was not sufficient to see the straggling “toilet-paper” type whitish look you might see in a heavy bloom. On Friday, June 1st, The Academy of Natural Sciences verified the identification of the sample submitted by Dr. Silldorff.

Dr. Silldorff noted, “*there was plenty of Didymo on the rocks so I had no trouble finding material to collect, and my sample was filled with nice, healthy, living Didymo. So, in terms of a risk of spread, I would say the Youghiogheny is now a potential launching pad, especially with the combined traffic of whitewater enthusiasts and trout anglers.*”

As you know, the Ohiopyle area is a heavily used recreational area. All users of the river should take extra precaution to clean all equipment used in the Youghiogheny before entering other waterbodies. *Didymo* is a diatom that causes severe degradation of stream habitat in some places. It can be spread by

moving just a small amount — maybe even just a cell or two. Take extra care in cleaning boats, gear, equipment before transporting to another waterbody! Gear can be disinfected by using a 10% household bleach and 90% water solution or a strong salt solution (minimally, use at least a true 5% salt solution). Allow either solution to remain in contact with equipment for at least 10 minutes! Either solution can be harsh on gear and equipment so be sure to rinse everything with plenty of water after disinfecting. Take extra care to properly disinfect porous materials such as nets, ropes, cloth items, water shoes, and especially felt-soled waders and wading shoes!

Find additional Aquatic Invasive Species information at <http://fishandboat.com/ais.htm>

Presently, warning signage is not available, however any efforts than can be made to alert Youghiogheny River users to the presence or this invasive species and to encourage extra care in cleaning gear and not spreading the *Didymo* should be encouraged.

Kevin

Kevin R. Kelly

Aquatic Biologist - Water Program Specialist
PADEP - Division of Watershed Assistance
Rachael Carson State Office Building
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Upcoming Trips

July

21-22	CCA Swiftwater Rescue Class		Charlie Duffy
28-29	Kibler Valley River Run Festival (near Danville, VA)	I	Ron Knipling

August

4	BRV Moonlight Picnic	All	Ed Evangelidi
3-5	Flood City Music Festival (near Johnstown, PA)	PN-I	Ed Evangelidi & Courtney Caldwell
11-12	Lehigh Release	LI	TBD
25	CCA Canoe/Kayak Rumble	I	Charlie Duffy

September

1-3	New River Rendezvous	All	Charlie Duffy
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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 2012: January 24, March 13, May 8, August 4 (Moonlight Picnic), September 11, November TBD, December 8 (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.

2012 BRV Officers: Rick Koller, President; Mark Wray, VP; Mike Martin & Daryl Hall, Trip Coordinators; Clark Childers, Treasurer; Frank Fico, Newsletter Editor; Kathleen Sengstock, Conservation.

2012 Board of Directors: Ginny DeSeau, Ed Grove, Ron Knipling, 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), 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. 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 September Voyageur:
Friday, August 31

**DON'T MISS THE BRV MOONLIGHT PICNIC
ON AUGUST 4TH! (See page 1)**