



# Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge

July 2010

Produced by:  
Anthony A. Adams  
Christine Mallory

## Rappahannock River Valley Staff

*Acting Refuge Manager*  
Merry Maxwell

*Wildlife Biologist*  
Sandy Spencer

*Administrative Support Assistant*  
Frances Murphey

*Maintenance Worker*  
Gary Bareford

*Park Ranger/Law Enforcement*  
Dustin Martin

*Biological Technician*  
Patrick Hegge

*STEP*  
Ricky Coston  
Megan Davis  
Kyran Belfield  
Rebecca Funk

*SCA*  
Christine Mallory  
Anthony A. Adams  
Steven Preskitt



## Goodbye Rappahannock Joe

Joseph McCauley has been a part of the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge for many years. Serving as Refuge Manager, McCauley has served a vital role in acquiring land, aiding in community projects, and helping future wildlife conservationists including the STEP and SCEP students. McCauley will not be leaving the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service all together; he has chosen to take a higher position in the Regional Office in Massachusetts. McCauley will be greatly missed, but is wished much luck in his future new position.

*Excerpt from THE BALLAD OF RAPPAHANNOCK JOE – sung to the tune of The Tennessee Stud*

*Early in the summer of Y2K, he came from the north to Virginee-aye-yay To build a new refuge ‘long the rivers’ sands, From the jewels of the Rappahannock River Neck Lands.*

*He drifted on in to Tappahannock town, Made himself known to everyone around.*

*Got his mug and his name in the papers so, He’d earn the sobriquet of “Rappahannock Joe”.*

*Oh, Rappahannock Joe was good and true, Goatee of gray and eyes of blue And he had the nerve and he had the go, And there’ll never be another like Rappahannock Joe...*

*...The refuge started out without no friends, but Rappahannock Joe had other plans, He locked us all up together so, we’d all become friends with Rappahannock Joe...*

*...He built a bridge and trails through the forest so, folks and their kids would have a natural place to go, But he almost killed his staff because of his pride, aimin’ for a thunderstorm on a scary boat ride.*

*Now he had him a touch of uncured ham, risin’ through the ranks was always his plan. We knew someday that he’d have to go, and we’d say goodbye to Rappahannock Joe.*



*Kyran Belfield*

My name is **Kyran Belfield**. This summer is my first year working as a STEP at the refuge. Last summer, I volunteered working with Rosalind Wu. We GPSed invasive species on different Refuge tracts, conducted native bee surveys and a lot of different maintenance work. I really enjoyed volunteering last year and am looking forward to working with the Refuge. This coming fall, I will be a junior at Rappahannock High School.

My name is **Christine Mallory** and I am a Student Conservation Association (SCA) intern at Rappahannock this summer. I am from Columbiana, Alabama. I am currently a junior biology student at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. I am definitely looking forward to an awesome, interesting, fun-filled summer at Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Two exciting things to experience this summer are a native bee survey and conducting nature walks.



*Christine Mallory*



My name is **Megan Davis** and this is my third summer as an intern for the Rappahannock River Valley NWR. One of the projects I have aided in is the construction of the Hutchinson Trail in Tappahannock, VA. I just graduated from Rappahannock High School, and also attended the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and Environmental Science. This fall, I will be attending Pennsylvania State University majoring in Wildlife and Fisheries Science.

*Megan Davis*



*Anthony Adams*

My name is **Anthony A. Adams**. I am a senior at Gustavus Adolphus, St. Peter, MN where I am pursuing Environmental Studies and Biology major with a minor in Geography. This is my third year in with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) in the Conservation Internship Program (CIP) with the Fish and Wildlife. The last two appointments have been at the two largest refuges in the Northeast region, Great Dismal Swamp and Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuges. Each refuge provided me with both professional experiences and life long social connections with many of its great employees. This summer I am very fortunate to be working at Rappahannock River Valley NWR with diverse and enthusiastic interns.

Hello my name is **Rebecca Funk**. I'm the Law Enforcement STEP here at the refuge this year. I'm originally from Big Pool Maryland, which believe it or not, is smaller than Warsaw. I'm currently a senior at West Virginia University studying Wildlife and Fisheries Resources, and plan to graduate this December. After graduation I plan on pursuing a full time career in the Fish and Wildlife Service in either Law Enforcement or Environmental Education. In previous years I completed an Environmental Education internship at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge with the FWS. At that refuge I worked with visitors and children during refuge activities and the annual day camp sponsored for local children. It was here that I was introduced to the Law Enforcement branch of the refuge system, which is why I'm here now. In my spare time I love hunting and fishing, spending time with my family and dog. I also played rugby for WVU throughout my college career and have gotten the chance to travel the country with my team.

*Rebecca Funk*



# Spot Light!



*Ricky at kids fishing day taking part in what has become tradition here at Rappahannock NWR, interns wearing a cool tattoo, and a hot dog eating contest!*

My name is **Ricky Coston** and I will be starting my junior year at the College of William and Mary this fall. I have spent the last 4 summers working at the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge. On June 5, I managed the annual Kid's Fishing Day event held at the refuge. The event proved to be a great success as the youth, staff, and volunteers enjoyed themselves on a memorable day. I also learned some valued leadership and management skills during the preparation, execution, and conclusion of this auspicious event. I have gained a great deal of knowledge during the past four summers. I have been involved in many projects concerning wildlife and habitat management, visitor services, and refuge maintenance. My most recent project is a three week detail where I will be working in the Office of National Wildlife Refuge System Budget located in Arlington, Virginia. While there, I will be learning about the policies and management of the of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's budget system, which involves a process consisting of funds monitoring, collections, allocations, and executions.

# Spot Light!



Yoo-hoo! I'm **Frances Murphey**, the Administrative Assistant for our refuge complex. I was born in Germany (my father was military) but have lived in the States since I was two. I grew up in a large town in southwest Oklahoma, where I lived and worked until 2001. At that time, I decided it was time for a change. I went from being the School-Age Services director at a large military base to being an Administrative Assistant for a NWR complex. What a change! And I'd do it again- and am. I'll be leaving soon as I've accepted a job as the Administrative Officer at Alaska Maritime NWR in Homer, Alaska. As the station's Admin I perform a wide variety of tasks. I answer the phones, greet visitors, distribute the mail, pay bills, manage the deer hunt at Rappahannock and serve as the webmaster of the Refuge web sites. That's the nutshell version. I have two dogs and two cats that will be moving to Alaska with me. Westward ho!

# What we've been up to..

## **Rivah Fest!**

Every year, the streets of downtown Tappahannock, Virginia shut down for Rivah Fest. Rivah Fest brings the people of Tappahannock together with local businesses, vendors, and organizations. Rappahannock River Valley NWR has participated in Rivah Fest for years and on June 19, 2010, the refuge was definitely present. People were informed about the public uses and the current activities of the refuge. The refuge encouraged people to further enjoy conserved lands and informed more people of the interesting and unique aspects of Rappahannock.

## **Let's Go Fishing!**

Rappahannock River Valley's annual Kid's Fishing Day was held on June 5, 2010. It turned out to be a great success with about 24 kids in attendance and luckily no injuries or illnesses. Approximately six fish were caught and prizes were given away for biggest, smallest, first, most unusual, and longest fish. Every little fisher received a goody bag and learned about fish identification and habitat, water and boat safety, knot tying, and casting. Kids, adults, volunteers, and staff had loads of fun!

## **It's Not Just for Ducks...**

On June 26, 2010, interns of the refuge went to local post offices and promoted the sale of the Duck Stamp. The students informed people about the Duck Stamp's vital role in land acquisition to save places that are not necessarily just limited to ducks. Students also had the opportunity to explain more about Rappahannock River Valley NWR and the tracts that the public are most interested in including the Wilna and Hutchinson tracts.



*Students eager to promote the duck stamp and persuade the people to help conserve our lands.*

*From left to right:*

*Christine, Rebecca, Kyran, Anthony, and Megan*