

James RiverWatch



December 2008

2008 Extreme Stream Makover Poster Winners

**James River
Association
Website**

Join Our Mailing List!

To celebrate JRA's 2008 Extreme Stream Makeover, fourth and fifth graders from Crestview Elementary School in Henrico County made posters to educate the public about the importance of rain gardens. Five rain gardens (an area of plants intended to soak up rain water from downspouts and other areas of runoff) were installed during this year's Extreme Stream Makeover of Horsepen Branch.

**Easy Ways to
Support
JRA:**

Join

Keep your membership up to date and encourage your friends to join. Check out our [website](#) for membership information!

Only through the strong support of our members can JRA continue its efforts to protect and restore the James River for current and future generations to enjoy.

What you can do

Volunteer

Visit [JRA's Website](#) to find



Before



After

Poster by Amy Xu

Congratulations to the 2008 Extreme Stream Makeover Poster Contest Winners (in no particular order)! Be sure to stop by and see the winning posters at these locations:

- Austin Evans; 4th Grade, Mrs. Bagby - Balson Avenue & Reed Road
- Kaleb Patterson; 4th Grade, Mrs. Hart - Home Depot: 6501 W. Broad St. (in parking lot near Broad St.)
- Amy Xu; 5th Grade, Mrs. Rama - Crestview Elementary School (near gym)
- Nhi; 5th Grade, Mrs. Rama - Christ United Methodist

out about Volunteer
Opportunities

Search

Use [GoodSearch.com](#) as your search engine with JRA listed as your charity and earn money for JRA while searching the Web!

Drink

When you buy Ukrop's Super Markets bottled spring water, JRA receives part of the proceeds.

Donate

We accept donations of Gifts of Stock, bonds and other investments. You can also donate through the [Donate Now](#) Link on our [Website](#).

To keep up with important events visit our [Calendar of Events](#) on our [Website](#)

Church: W. Grace St. & Charles St. (near playground)

- Brigitte Teleu; 4th Grade, Mrs. Bagby - Just the Fax: 6236 Antler Rd. (nearest cross street is Redman Rd.)
- Sarah Galt; 5th Grade, Mrs. Hammock - Crestview Elementary School (near gym)
- Elliot Culbreth; 5th Grade, Mrs. Rama - Home Depot: 6501 W. Broad St. (in parking lot near Broad St.)

Rally for Clean Water

Please join us on January 26, 2009 for The Rally for Clean Water at the Capitol Square in Richmond. There will be speakers on important issues from 9:30 to 3:30. If you are unable spend the entire day with us please join us at the Capitol Square Bell Towner from 11:00 a.m. to noon, on behalf of the everyone's need for clean water!

If you are able to attend please contact Amy Moore at 804-788-8811 ext 203, or amoore@java.org

2008 JRA Highlights

This past year was an exciting, event filled year for JRA. Here are a few highlights from 2008:

- The 2008 legislative session turned out to be a success for JRA and Virginia's water quality. JRA and the Agriculture and Conservation Partnership for Water Quality, which consists of ten leading farming and conservation organizations, had success in securing more funding to help farmers implement pollution reducing conservation practices. The Virginia Natural Resource Commitment Fund was the only new fund to be passed in this session, demonstrating its broad support in the General Assembly. This Fund will be used as a cost share for installed agricultural conservation practices.
- Four Nature & Child Reunion campouts provided many students with a unique outdoor experience. The Reunion is a program that unites children with the outdoors through a weekend camping experience on Presquile National Wildlife Refuge. During the trips students participate in activities such as team building, fishing, hiking, outdoor cooking and learning about James River ecosystems.



- JRA's 18th Annual Westover Lawn Party took place on Saturday June 7, 2008. The Westover Lawn Party is held in the beginning of June every year at Westover, the home of Fred and Muschi Fisher, in Charles City County and is JRA's primary fundraiser. Hundreds of attendees braved the heat this year and helped us enjoy this fun filled event with music, a live auction, a silent auction, a great seafood bar and a variety of children's activities. Thanks to all of our volunteers and guests for making this our most successful event to date! Plan to join us next year for the Westover Lawn Party on Saturday, June 6th, 2009.
- JRA's held its first annual James River Runoff Rundown on Saturday, July 12th. Special thanks to everyone who participated and sponsored this event, for making it a huge success! Save the date for the second annual James River Runoff Rundown to be held on Saturday, July 11th, 2009. For more information visit: www.runoffrundown.com.
- In 2008 JRA launched a new Upper James Riverkeeper program. Due to the size of the James River Watershed (over 10,000 square miles) the Upper James Riverkeeper position was created to have a full time set of eyes, ears and voice covering the river and its tributaries from the headwaters to the falls in Richmond.
- JRA's 2008 Extreme Stream Makeover took place October 20-25th, in the Horsepen Branch watershed located in western Henrico County. The Makeover was a week-long event that focuses on improving the health of a neglected urban stream. This project was truly a community-wide event, engaging 4 garden clubs, 25 businesses, 8 schools, 3 local government agencies, 1 church and 3 other nonprofit organizations. Through this project 700 volunteers helped

reduce pollution caused by rain water runoff through the construction of rain barrels, rain gardens, trash cleanup and buffer planting

- JRA's "Wild & Scenic Film Festival", presented by Patagonia, and in partnership with Blue Ridge Mountain Sports took place at The Kimball Theatre in Williamsburg on Wednesday, November 12th. The film festival was a partnership with other grassroots organizations who are connected by a common goal to use film to inspire activism. Thank you to all who were able to come and support JRA by watching a variety of entertaining environmental films!
- JRA's Ducking Stool Point project was completed on November 24th, 2008. Ducking Stool Point is an area of land where the James River and Herring Creek meet, that protects about 500 acres of tidal freshwater wetlands. The project involved installing a 1,825 foot long sloping strip of stone that was placed between the James River and the marsh. The "revetment structure" will help prevent marsh vegetation and sediment from further eroding Ducking Stool Point. For more information about this project, please visit our website: www.jamesriverassociation.org/watershed6.html
- On November 10, 2008, the James River Green Building Council (JRGC) presented its fourth annual Green Building Leadership Award to JRA for its Building a Cleaner James River program. The program, which is overseen by Amber Foster, JRA's Watershed Restoration Project Manager, encourages environmentally friendly development practices through changes to local codes and ordinances.
- The James River Association's Annual Meeting and Oyster Roast was held Sunday, November 16th, 2008 at the Willow Oaks Country Club in Richmond, Virginia. This year's speaker was Tom Horton. Tom was a reporter for the Baltimore Sun and has reported on the health of the Chesapeake Bay and the environment for over 35 years.

Remember JRA in your Year End Giving

Please remember JRA in your year-end giving. We accept gifts of stock, Visa & Mastercard payments, as well as checks. Thanks so much for your support! Happy Holidays from the JRA staff!

The James River Association is a member supported, nonprofit organization that works to provide a voice for the James River and its natural resources. If you'd like to help us continue our work, please call Sherrie Tribble to find out how you can join or donate at

(804) 788-8811 Ext. 202

If you have any questions/ comments about the James RiverWatch please email awilliams@java.org.

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