

2018 Seven Bends Lecture Series

St. Paul's Heritage Center

106 S. High Street, Edinburg, VA 22824
Sundays at 2:00 pm

State of the River - VDGIF River Research

Sunday, February 25 - Brad Fink

District Fisheries Biologist, VA Department of Game & Inland Fisheries

In his current position Brad works with anglers and aquatic managers to optimize the fisheries and water quality throughout the region. Brad obtained a B.S. in Fisheries Science from Virginia Tech and a M.S. from James Madison University. He has 18 years of experience in aquatic sciences/ species management including stream restoration, shoreline habitat improvement, stream temperature research, and species population management. Before obtaining a position with VDGIF he worked for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and the USDA Forest Service. He is currently the Virginia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Fundraising Committee Chair. Brad is a native to the Shenandoah Valley and enjoys hunting, fishing, and camping in the region.



Invasive Plants in the Shenandoah River Watershed

Sunday, March 25 - Maggie and Rod Walker

Landowners and two of the co-founders of Blue Ridge PRISM

Married for 40 years, Rod and Maggie Walker have been timberland owners for that entire time and more. Having owned land in Wisconsin and West Virginia, they purchased 1,500 acres in Albemarle County in 1998 and moved here full time in 2012. Their current timberland ownerships of over 2,000 acres were originally for investment and enjoying various outdoors activities. Over time serious forestry activities crept in, starting with planting pine plantations and eventually moving into invasive species management.

While working on invasive plants on their Albemarle property, Jake Hughes from the Shenandoah National Park made them aware of the concept of Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs). Together with Jake, they organized the first CWMA to be formed in Virginia, now known as the Blue Ridge PRISM, to address invasive plants across 10 counties of Virginia, comprising almost 3 million acres. For information on the Blue Ridge PRISM, visit blueridgeprism.org.



Desired Future Conditions of Seven Bends State Park

Sunday, April 8, 2018 - Al Cire

District 3 Resource Specialist,

VA Dept. of Conservation & Recreation

Al Cire began his career with the Virginia Dept. of Conservation & Recreation in 1988. His work locations have included Smith Mountain Lake State Park, Occoneechee State Park, and Hungry Mother State Park. Al also worked for the Division of Natural Heritage for 10 years as the Western Operations Steward managing Natural Area Preserves. Currently Al serves as the District Resource Specialist stationed at Natural Bridge State Park. He manages the natural and cultural resources for 6 state parks.



For more information, visit www.fnfsr.org or call 540-459-8550

Founded in 1988, our mission is to keep the North Fork of the Shenandoah River clean, healthy, and beautiful through advocacy, community action, education and science. Friends serves as the "community support organization" for Seven Bends State Park and assists other public lands sites with programs and projects throughout our watershed.