



Conservation August 2022

New Grant from Friends of Reservoirs and Mossback I need approval to use 200 to 500 for shipping

- **Grass** We had money left over from the AFTCO grant and I got permission to carry it forward this fall. We are purchasing supplies for a second grow tank at the high school.
- Open on the James
- This was a good example of team work that gave us a positive image. Thanks to Jack Babcock and Margaret Whitmore for taking leadership roles. We managed to pull off a conservation project.
- **AFTCO** The yellow bags for trash collection at events are still available. Easy way to get conservation recognition with minimal effort.
- **Mossback and Friends of Reservoirs Grant** This is a new grant for a one day educational program at Pulaski County High School to teach students about the use of artificial habitat. This was requested by the teacher. Appalachian Power has contributed an additional \$2000 and Friends of Claytor Lake an additional thousand. We should pay for the shipping as we get to take credit for these projects while doing little or nothing. Bruce Shepard has helped in the past. I have deliberately kept this project small to keep shipping costs down.
- **Bass tracking**
- **James and Chick** Margaret Whitmore biologist. This has slowed down.
- **Rapahannock** Scott Herrmann biologist; This biologist is just getting started and the Rapahannock is quite different from the Chick and the James.
- The town of Tappahannock has applied for a permit to expand a ramp (Hoskins Creek Landing) and parking to allow for larger tournaments and economic development. I have sent questions about the ramp to Chris and others about it and did not receive any input at all from anyone. If anyone is interested VWR had a board meeting on Aug. 17, 18 and the minutes will be posted next week and you can get an idea of the attitude toward boat ramp expansion from the minutes.
- **Boat Ramp Wildlife resources land.** *Chris Merrit had asked me to look into the possibility of opening this ramp for more parking and enlarging the ramp. This ramp is located in a well-established wildlife management area. The amount of work required to make any changes is way beyond what I am willing to do by myself and if history is any indicator there are no anglers willing to take this on. You also have the serious problem of public perception. First step is to adopt the ramp and let the public know. This has got to be the next conservation director challenge. Use the VDWR comments page to express your interest and then find an angler friendly legislator to walk you through the process. You will need to come up with a good proposal and convince everyone that is worth the investment and get it included in the 2024 budget.. You will also need to overcome duck hunter objections. I spent two weeks investigating the potential for this site. Expansion of this site is highly unlikely.*

- **Back Bay Boat ramp** This will require approaching the land owner and then getting public support. Economic development would be a good approach to this ramp. Has better potential than Morris Creek. Region biologist is Chad Boyce.
- **Lake Gaston 5 year plan** Must Work with NC agencies on Lake Gaston I have copies of all of these reports. If anyone is interested I will send you a copy. They are way too long to attach to this report!
- **Claytor Lake 5 year plan**
- **Smith Mountain Lake 5 year plan**
- ***I apologize for the length of this report but I spend part of every day with conservation topics. Eel grass and networking issues are constant and I stay behind answering phone calls. It is too long to print.***

Joan Blankenship, Conservation
276-340-9778
bass2class@gmail.com
face book