

FOCL POINT



Fall 2022 Newsletter



WWW.FOCL.ORG

540-395-3625 (FOCL)

6580 VALLEY CENTER DRIVE-STE. 318

FAIRLAWN, VA 24141

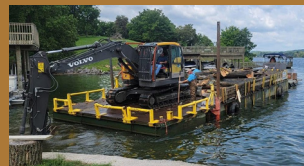
30 Years of FOCL
A Letter From the President



Clean Up

Annual Events

Drawdown, Mussels, AEP



2023 Calendar & Waterproof Map

Our Friends...of Peak Creek!



Business Spotlights



30 Years of FOCL

A message from the President's Corner:

This year marks a very special year for Friends of Claytor Lake (FOCL) as we celebrate our 30th anniversary. Thirty years ago, several volunteers gathered to fill a need. A need expressed by lake residents and volunteers alike from around Claytor Lake - how to clean the lake. The volunteers gathered around a picnic table to discuss and brainstorm some thoughts. In doing so, they passed a hat to collect money and in turn, formed the Friends of Claytor Lake (FOCL). Two of the original founders, Dean Jackson and Bill Cunningham are still on the board today serving 30 years. The group volunteered their time and personal equipment to take on the task at hand. Over that period FOCL continued to grow and grow. They formed a board of directors and took on certain tasks. The donations started to come in and they bought larger equipment. As they say, the rest is history.

Today, we have grown over the years from a small group of volunteers to 14 board members, an executive director and a cleanup crew consisting of six very hard working men. I would personally like to thank our past and present FOCL board members for all of your dedication and hard work; without you, none of this would be possible.

around the lake. To name a few: water quality testing, veterans fishing day, kid's fishing day and mussel salvage. As we strive to continue this nonprofit organization, please remember to donate and support us. To those of you who always continue to donate and support us, we thank you very much.

Please follow us on Facebook or at focl.org. You are welcome to join us at one of our monthly meetings. We meet the second Thursday of every month at 6:00pm at the Pulaski County Innovation Center conference room.

Happy Holidays from your Friends of Claytor Lake,

President, Steve Rapp



FOCL's treasurer and 30 year board member, Bill Cunningham sharing about FOCL history & future at the annual meeting



FOCL's long time board member Dean Jackson shares how FOCL got started 30 years ago



FOCL Board of Directors

OUR MISSION

Dedicated to conserving and protecting the quality, sustainability, and tranquility of the environment of Claytor Lake for all...

Officers

Steve Rapp, President, Radford, VA
Jackson Beamer, Vice President, Salem/Radford, VA
Bill Cunningham, Treasurer, Dublin, VA
Laura Bullard, Secretary, Dublin, VA

Executive Director

Ciara Harris, Dublin, VA



Board of Directors

Jeff Arnold, Dublin, VA- **2021 Volunteer of the Year**
Michael Valach, Pulaski, VA
Dave Dobyms, Dublin, VA
Dean Jackson, Pulaski, VA
John Johnson, Radford, VA
Cheri Strenz, Dublin, VA
Cecil Doyle, Roanoke/Radford, VA
Dave Stevenson, Greensboro, NC/Pulaski, VA
Laura Walters, Dublin, VA
Caroline Gaskins, Radford, VA
Todd Brewster, Dublin, VA



Committee Structure

Finance- Bill Cunningham, Chair
Clean Up Supervisor- Dave Dobyms
Organizational Development- Laura Bullard, Chair
Community Outreach- Caroline Gaskins, Chair
Environmental Committee- Laura Walters, Chair



Clean Up Crew

Jerry Dean, Foreman
Tony Stammers, Asst. Foreman
Tony Giles
Robert Akers
Ben LeBlanc



Get social & stay up to date with us on Facebook & Instagram!

Debris Clean Up

Another season of debris clean up down! To date, the crew has collected more than 248 roll off loads of woody debris. Each roll-off load is 15 tons, which equals just under 7.5 million pounds! To visualize, the largest mammal is a blue whale. The weight of 22.5 blue whales is equivalent to the volume pulled out of the lake this season! The weather has been a factor in



lesser amounts of woody debris flowing north in the New River, from North Carolina. Burning of the woody debris pile started on Monday, October 24th with stable and safe conditions

monitored by Snowville Fire Dept. and Pulaski Co. Emergency Services.

As far as clean up equipment, FOCL is on the look out for a track loader. The loader helps keep the debris in Big Hole Hollow tidy throughout the years, and is especially useful during/after the pile burn.

Special thank you to our continuous supporters, Appalachian Power and Pulaski County!



If you have questions about clean up, give us a call!

We can assess situations and help provide best courses of action related to potential navigation, ecological and safety hazards.

Huge thank you to Dave Dobyons, our Clean Up Supervisor (volunteer) who works with our crew each year. We couldn't do it without him!

DEBRIS REPORT 2022 SEASON	ROLL OFF TOTAL <i>Each is 15 tons!</i> 248 LOADS = 3,720 TONS = 7,400,000 POUNDS!
	BAGS OF TRASH 140 TIRES 37
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT THIS SEASON! 	
	DOCKS 8 BARRELS 2 MISC. 1 WATER HEATER

We Love Our Supporters!

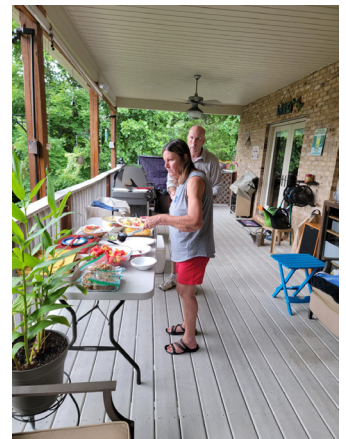
Every summer, lake residents Bob and Gail Becker kindly treat our hardworking crew to a homemade steak lunch! They invite our crew to come over and enjoy lunch, relax and socialize. Our crew is so thankful for this nice gesture every season. It's something they look forward to every year and appreciate it so much.



We love everyone on the lake who shows their support to our crew each year. If you happen to see them out working, feel free to give them a wave!

Keep Claytor Clean

FOCL's clean up efforts go beyond woody debris. Every year we look for ways to #keepclaytorclean from trash, especially in July. We had volunteers help hand out trash bags at public launches to encourage on the water pick up by boat. NRCC ACCE student Jack Price helped along with a group of students from Randolph Park day camp.



Bob & Gail Becker

Board member Laura Bullard's great niece Amelia took advantage of being in town, and helped clean up her cove around the dam. We're hearing of less and less trash! Love seeing these efforts each year.



Another new sustainability effort FOCL started participating in, is the NextTrex Community recycling program. With a goal of collecting 500 lbs. of plastic films in 6 months, FOCL hopes to donate a TREX bench to DeHaven Park.



Drop off locations:
Claytor Lake State Park Gift Shop
Conrad Brothers Marine
Pulaski Co. Innovation Center
Participating Grocery Stores
Pulaski Co. Library



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EVENTS!

ANNUAL MEETING

FOCL held its annual meeting at the State Park on Saturday, August 13th. There were 43 attendees present during the review of FOCL activities and clean up. There were recognitions given out and merchandise available. We celebrated 30 years of FOCL at the meeting, with memories from long time board members Dean Jackson, and Bill Cunningham. We hope to see you at our annual meeting next year!



POKER RUN

FOCL was excited to host the 3rd annual poker run on Saturday, September 24th at Mountain 2 Island at Rock House Marina! We had 21 boats and 70 individual participants. Huge thanks to Rock House and FOCL volunteers for helping make the event another success. We look forward to another fall run next year. Thank you to our prize donors and all of the participants for the continued support. Let us know if you'd like to help out at next year's fundraiser.



DRAWDOWN, MUSSELS, AEP, WATER QUALITY

To allow for shoreline maintenance, a temporary, nonemergency 5 foot **drawdown** of Claytor Lake is proposed every other year. The next drawdown is proposed for Nov. of 2023.

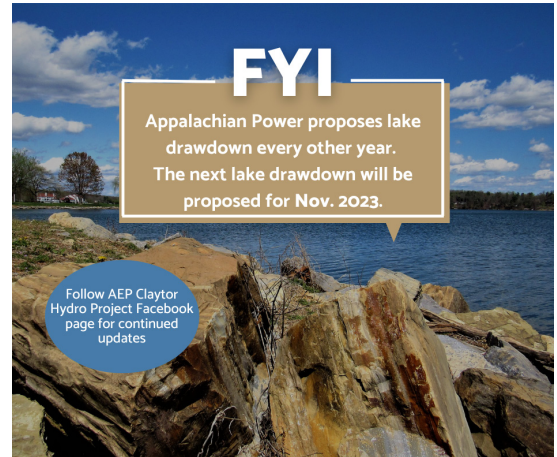
Throughout drawdown, FOCL encourages everyone to save stranded mussels by gently tossing them into deeper water. A volunteer mussel salvage event is also typically held the first Saturday of drawdown. If you're interested in participating, keep an eye out for details on our Facebook page or website.

Speaking of mussels... at the August annual meeting we had special guest, Tim Lane from DWR speak on the importance of freshwater mussels to the lake environment. They have the ability



to filter bacteria, algae and other particles from thousands of gallons of water a day!

Visit www.dwr.virginia.gov for more information!



NEW to Claytor Lake? We encourage you to check out Appalachian informative website to learn more on the Shoreline Management Plan. There is an 'FAQ' section on the website that also helps you navigate potential project questions. We encourage you to contact Pulaski County if you have additional questions regarding planning and zoning.

www.claytorhydro.com/resources

www.pulaskicounty.org/planning-zoning

Did you know? We work with Virginia Tech's Biological Systems Engineering Dept. to help us compile and run data from water samples taken from Claytor. Keep an eye out for water quality results from this season!

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CURRENT NEWS SHORELINE MANAGEMENT INTERACTIVE MAP

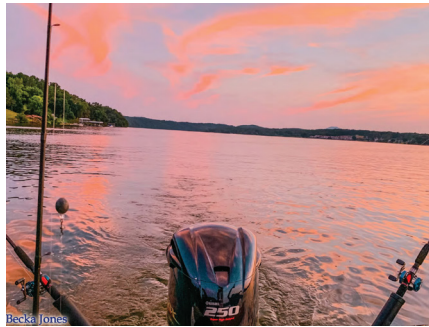
[View our most current news information.](#) [Find all of the documents and forms you need related to the Shoreline Management Plan.](#) [See an interactive map of Claytor Lake including cities, counties, shoreline classifications, and more.](#)

[Learn more ▶](#) [See all resources ▶](#) [View full map ▶](#)

Get ready to grab a 2023 lake calendar!



Call, message or email to place an order today.

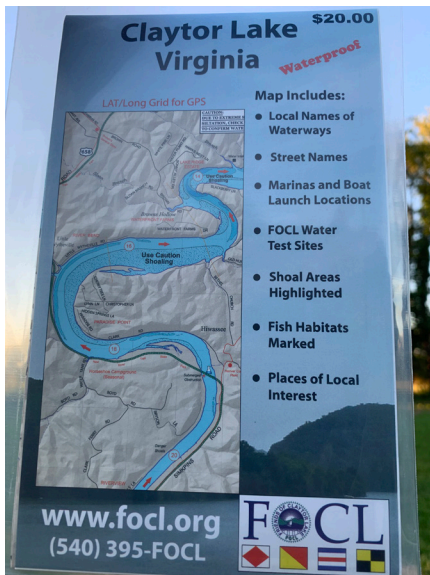


Huge thank you to everyone who submitted beautiful Claytor Lake photos!

Front cover photo by Bonese Harris.



Waterproof lake maps available!



Updated waterproof maps of Claytor are now available for purchase. Conveniently grab yours at one of the participating retail locations below.

GPS coordinates, link for fish/vegetation habitats, POI + more!

- Claytor Lake State Park Gift Shop
- Conrad Brothers Marine
- Rock House Marina
- Thee Draper Village

Maps are \$20 and come in a waterproof bag for added protection.

Our Friends... of Peak Creek!

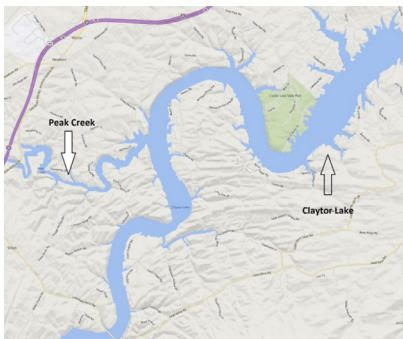
Friends of Peak Creek is a community-based, all volunteer non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to improving and protecting the environment of the Peak Creek Watershed. The mission is to enhance and preserve a valuable headwater of the New River, improve water quality and ecological habitat in the creek, foster environmental awareness, help develop sustainable recreational and economic resources for all to enjoy.

FOPC works on a number of projects throughout the year and partners with FOPC & New River Conservancy to enhance the 'water watchers' program throughout. Testing is done and training is provided by retired DWR fisheries biologist who now works with NRC, John Copeland.

Keeping an eye on the biology of Peak Creek is essential and helps us better understand Claytor Lake!



FOCL has worked to help enhance waterways at Claytor, just like FOPC does for Peak Creek. The large group of volunteers work hard throughout the year to clean up the creek, which helps stop the flow of debris into Claytor Lake from Pulaski.



Interested in learning more and becoming a volunteer? Visit their website www.friendsofpeakcreek.org or email info@friendsofpeakcreek.org.



Huge congratulations to John Copeland for his long service with VA DWR. FOCL has worked together with John for many years on fish habitat and vegetation projects. John is the 'go to' guy when it comes to Claytor Lake biology!

FOCL awarded John a small 'bass' token of appreciation at the October FOCL board meeting. John now works with New River Conservancy. Congrats and thanks for your long service to Claytor Lake!



Business Spotlights

During the year we are given the opportunity to work with local businesses around the lake. These businesses have been a huge support system, providing venues for FOCL fundraisers and even places to send volunteer groups to help keep clean.

Rock House Marina has provided the venue for the FOCL Poker Run for the last 3 years. It is the perfect spot to eat, relax and rent a kayak! You can even purchase FOCL merch.



Conrad Brothers Marine

has been another supportive business for many years. Because of the booming boating business at the marinas in Peak Creek, the area sees a lot of trash and different forms of debris. There have been volunteer groups who focus on cleaning up those areas, like Kollmorgen, who takes part in a 'Day of Caring' with their employees. You can purchase FOCL merchandise at Conrads and

drop off plastic films to recycle towards the Trex Community Program for FOCL.



Claytor Lake State Park is also a FOCL partner who hosts to many events throughout the year. Check out the gift shop maps, calendars and lake apparel! The park is another stop for recycled plastic films.

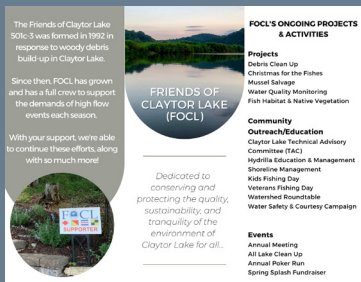


Get Involved, Support FOCL

We invite you to learn more about the lake and help promote its quality and sustainability by participating in lake and FOCL activities. These include monthly board meetings, committees, events, etc. You will gain a wealth of knowledge and experience you wouldn't expect. Please help spread the word about FOCL's mission and to continue to donate to support the conservation of Claytor Lake!

Your input is important! FOCL shares interests and issues with other lake partners. (AEP, Pulaski County)

Support the Claytor Lake Environment



The Friends of Claytor Lake 501c-3 was formed in 1992 in response to woody debris build-up in Claytor Lake.

Since then, FOCL has grown and has a full crew to support the demands of high flow events each season.

With your support, we're able to continue these efforts, along with so much more!

FRIENDS OF CLAYTOR LAKE (FOCL)

Dedicated to conserving and protecting the quality, sustainability, and tranquility of the environment of Claytor Lake for all.

FOCL'S ONGOING PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Projects
 Debris Clean Up
 Christmas for the Fishes
 Mussel Salvage
 Water Quality Monitoring
 Fish Habitat & Native Vegetation

Community Outreach/Education
 Claytor Lake Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
 Hydrilla Education & Management
 Sturgeon Management
 Kids Fishing Day
 Veterans Fishing Day
 Watershed Roundtable
 Water Safety & Courtesy Campaign

Events
 Annual Meeting
 All Lake Clean Up
 Annual Poker Run
 Spring Splash Fundraiser

Admiral \$5,000 & Up

Captain

Commander

Lieutenant

Ensign

Crew starting donation at \$20



MEMBER REPORT! 2022 SEASON

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT THIS SEASON!

FOLLOW US!
 Facebook @foclva
 Instagram @the_friends_of_claytor_lake

Join a monthly board meeting or volunteer at events!
 Email info@focl.org or call for opportunities to get involved.

Learn more about ongoing projects and how your support helps FOCL keep Claytor Lake clean!

WWW.FOCL.ORG

CONTACT US!

www.focl.org
 Email: info@focl.org
 540-595-FOCL (3625)
 6580 Valley Center Dr.
 Suite 318, Fairlawn, VA 24141

Name:

Mailing Address:

Lake Address (if different):

Phone:

Email:

Lake Living Status (circle one): Full Time Part Time Renter Visitor

Comments

Please make checks payable to FOCL, (a 501c-3 charitable organization) with your contact info to: 6580 Valley Center Drive, Suite 318 Fairlawn, VA 24141

We appreciate your support very much!

