

The South River Current

Promoting interest and collaboration for watershed stewardship

January 2021 Volume 2 Issue 1



River Restoration

The renown Albert Einstein once said, "Once you stop learning, you start dying." In this spirit and during its work remediating and restoring riverbanks, the South River Science Team sought to continually learn from past decisions and new data and adjust their decisions accordingly. Once restoration on each bank was complete, the team observed how the unique characteristics of the bank responded to use and then applied what they had learned to their work on the next riverbank. For example, after the Pilot Bank was restored, the team realized the importance and need to include public access to the river in their plans if possible. River-goers had worn a make-shift path on the Pilot Bank to and from the water. At the next riverbank along Constitution Park, the team added a set of steps from the top of the bank to the water but eventually there was still some wear from foot traffic along the water's edge. At the most recent restoration project at North Park, the team constructed two sets of steps leading down the bank to the water and a walking path along the river. The team continues to observe and learn and evaluate data collected as part of a long-term monitoring program.

Did You Know?

- The South River Science Team is a proud sponsor of Riverfest, held each year in Downtown Waynesboro.
- The first duck race at Riverfest started at Wayne Avenue and was supposed to end at the Main Street Bridge but the ducks never made it! They all got caught in the eddies, rocks, and trees along the river. Volunteers waded in to help!
- Research with the South River Science Team has contributed to over 75 advanced degrees from local universities.
 - A total of over 120 journal articles have been written about the South River mercury research and riverbank remediation work. All are available [here](#).



Connections

The Wayne Theatre in Waynesboro presents "Science and History Talks" in partnership with the Virginia Museum of Natural History and the Center for Coldwater Restoration as part of its Signature Speaker Series. The South River Science Team is a proud sponsor of the Signature Speaker Series. All of these events begin at 7:00 p.m. with a presentation and time for questions and answers. Admission is pay what you will. Advance tickets are recommended and may be reserved at no cost. Click [here](#) and scroll down to the bottom of the page to find more information on upcoming talks and tickets.

During the pandemic, the "At Home With The Wayne" campaign was created to keep the Wayne Theatre alive and active in the community. The Science and History Talks are among a handful of fun and educational virtual opportunities. Be sure to check it out!



Take a Walk Back

Museums provide us with endless sources of educational material. Even after multiple visits to a good museum you can still find something new to savor. One of Virginia's finest museums, the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH), focuses specifically on Virginia's environmental past and present, introducing aspects of paleontology, archaeology, mammalogy, and geology.

Over the past 10 years, the Center for Coldwater Restoration (CCR) has been working to enhance opportunities for the Waynesboro community to connect with the natural world in the South River Watershed. In the past few years, the CCR teamed up with the VMNH to determine the feasibility of a satellite museum campus here in Waynesboro. They opened a demonstration site in the city with support from DuPont (now Corteva) and other companies and spurred a tourism market analysis and feasibility study to be performed. The results supported a Waynesboro satellite museum location. Plans were underway (see conceptual drawing), but were put on hold in September 2020 because of COVID-19. In the meantime, the team is awaiting funding; fans of the project hope for a summer 2025 opening.



Photo from [newsleader.com](#). Courtesy Virginia Museum of Natural History



The Current is a publication of the South River Science Team (www.southernriverstewards.org).
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