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The South River Current



Promoting interest and collaboration for watershed stewardship



Kiosk in the Dooks Crossing parking lot that was designed by local artist and crafters.

River Restoration: Dooks' Delight

Calling all area anglers, kayakers, and canoers! Whether you are a seasoned boater or braving the waters for the first time, it's time to add the Dooks Crossing River Access Point to your "go-do" list this season. On April 29, 2022, Augusta County celebrated the completion of this long-awaited restoration project. Since 2018, a team of local, regional, state, and federal partners worked together to convert this worn-down riverbank into a recreational destination. The project included the removal of breached dam and trapped debris, restoration of an upstream bank, and construction of parking and launch areas. The project was paid for by NRDAR (National Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration) DuPont Settlement grants (see [Nov 2021 Issue](#)). Read about the environmental, ecological, and economic benefits of the restoration and details about the tax-free funding [here](#).

To find Dooks Crossing, put a pin on your map 3 miles downstream from Basic Park and 4.5 miles upstream from Crimora Park, on Rt. 611 Dooks Crossing Road. Near the parking lot, you'll see the map and kiosk pictured above. Enjoy your trek along the river and fish for native trout all day but be sure to pack up when the sun goes down! The river access area is open from dawn to dusk. For more details about this project visit [**Augusta County's website**](#).

Did You Know?



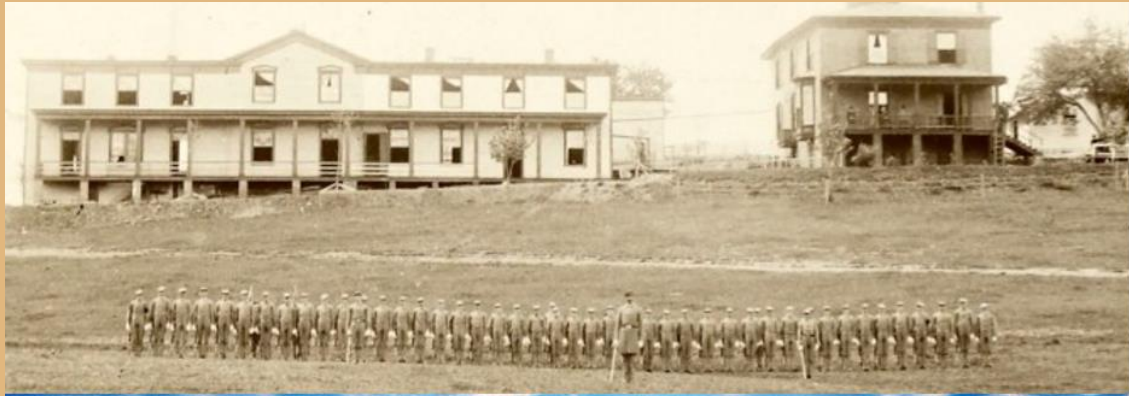
- In addition to funding the work at Dooks Dam, DuPont Settlement grants will fund improvements to river access at Crimora Park. More to come on this project!
 - The Headwater Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalist has already completed six projects in 2022. They planted chestnut seeds in the Augusta Forestry Center greenhouse in February. (See [**close-up photo**](#) of chestnut seeds in action to the left!) Click [**here**](#) for project information.
 - Gerald L. Baliles, governor of Virginia from 1986 to 1990, graduated from Fishburne Military School, as did World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) chairman Vince McMahon, singer songwriter Jonathan Edwards, and actor and writer Otto Felix.
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Headwaters Master Naturalists on the Mushroom and Lichen Hike with credentialed mycologists Jack Wilson, Chris Vacher, Vickie Vacher, and Mark Jones ([photo credit](#)).

Connections: Grow Your Knowledge of Nature

Have you fed the curiosity of your inner ecologist recently? Are you hungering to understand more about the natural world outside your door? If so, consider enrolling in the Virginia Master Naturalist program. Every year, the Headwaters Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalist program offers both classroom and field experience through a 60-hour training class. Instructors discuss a variety of scientific topics, including the biogeography of Virginia; native flora and fauna; and basics concepts in ecology, geology, and resource management. Students learn what it means to be a naturalist, how to identify organisms and use a field guide, the roles of Virginia state agencies in the management and conservation of natural resources, and more. Upon graduation, Master Naturalists become part of a statewide corps of volunteers who provide education, outreach, and service to benefit natural areas and natural resources in their communities. In short, a native nature experts! Find out more about the Headwaters Chapter [here](#) or online continuing education webinars [here](#). Join the chapter, become a master, and share your love of nature with the world.



*(Top) Fishburne Home School's original home and the school barracks ([photo credit](#))/
(Bottom) Facebook photo of current Fishburne Military School.*

Take a Walk Back: 143 Years and Counting!

A person with a passion can achieve remarkable results. In 1850, 16-year-old James A. Fishburne envisioned a high school for his hometown of Waynesboro, Virginia. He earned enough money to enroll in Washington College (now Washington & Lee University) and become a teacher. By 1879, he saved enough money to return home and open Waynesboro High School on Main Street. In 1882, he moved the school to Wayne Avenue into his newly built home and changed the name to Fishburne Home School, the first house in the county with running water and a bath. Professor Fishburne wanted the school to prepare students both physically and mentally for future endeavors with a military-style leadership that emphasized discipline, duties, and responsibilities. In the 1940s, the school suffered significant financial losses and stockholders sold the school to the state in 1951. Local civic leaders and a small group of alumni and friends organized, purchased back the school, and established the Fishburne-Hudgins Educational Foundation. The non-profit Foundation still operates the all-boys boarding school today. Although Professor Fishburne died in 1921, his legacy continues today through the school's Cadet Corps. Every year since 1924, the Cadet Corps has been rated an honor military school under the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program of the

U.S. Army—the only Junior ROTC school in the country with this unbroken record. Want a taste of what it's like? Learn more about their summer program [here](#).

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