



COUNTY OF AMHERST

Public Information Officer

AMHERST COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
153 WASHINGTON STREET
P. O. Box 390
AMHERST, VIRGINIA 24521

TELEPHONE (434) 946-9400
FACSIMILE (434) 946-9370

For Immediate Release

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Second Annual Amherst County Batteau Day

Second Annual Amherst County Batteau Day to be held at Riveredge Park in Madison Heights on Saturday, June 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A Family Fun Day on the Amherst County Bank of The James River. Amherst County Batteau Day honors Benjamin and Anthony Rucker, the inventors of the James River Batteau over two centuries ago.

This free event has been organized by Amherst County Recreation and Parks, Amherst County Museum & Historical Society, Amherst County Chamber of Commerce, Rucker Family Society, Virginia Canals and Navigations Society, Amherst County Public Safety, Amherst County Sheriff's Department, High Peak Sportswear, James River Association, The Design Group, James River Adventures, and the Batteaumen of The James River Batteau Festival.

The celebration will include the participation of living history interpreters, including the Rucker brothers, a blacksmith, powder horn engraver, pouch maker, batteaumen and musicians Jim Robertson of Amherst rendering colonial tunes and Rabbit Alley, an acoustic trio (Bob Sawyer on guitar, Dara Malone on bass and Kelby Barnhill on banjo) from Scottsville. Activities will include colonial games, marvelous marble painting with Glo Winters/The Mobile Artist, painting t-shirts, and scavenger hunts for kids, non-profit information booths, and food vendors. Watch student artists of The Mobile Artist paint air painting scenes of the James River and the batteau during the event. Amherst County is the birthplace of the James River Batteau. Last year the Park's landing was named "Rucker's Landing" in honor of the inventors of the Batteau.

The schedule of events for the day is as follows:

- 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Batteau and interpreters on grounds
- 10:30 – 11:00 Music with Jim Robertson
- 11:00 – 11:45 Conversation with Benjamin and Anthony Rucker
- 12:15 – 1:00 Music with Rabbit Alley
- 1:15 – 2:00 Conversation with Benjamin and Anthony Rucker
- 2:15 - 3:00 Music with Jim Robertson
- 3:00 – 3:30 Music with Rabbit Alley

Riveredge Park in Madison Heights is located at the base of 150 Rocky Hill Road, on the James River, downstream from the John Lynch Bridge. Boat and fishing access will not be available on Batteau Day. Parking will be in the Park or by Shuttle. A Bus Shuttle will run from 10:15 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. from Goodwill International located at 174 River James Shopping Center (across from the Lowe's parking lot). Van Shuttles will run from 10:15 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. from Madison Heights Baptist Church, 329 Main Street. Sponsors for the event are the Rucker Family Society, Michael Rucker, Blue Ridge Medical Center (Arrington), Sluggo's, The Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation and VFW – Amherst Post 9877. For additional information call the Museum 434-946-9068 or Recreation and Parks 434-946-9371.

Additional information may be obtained from Layney Sandifer at lesandifer@countyofamherst.com or (434)946-9400.