

TASTINGS

Blue Ridge to the Bay: A Rappahannock River Odyssey

START



BRENT'S NOTES: *Large sycamore tree with exposed root system along the bank. There were many of these along the stretch of river between where I put in at Route 647 and the Route 211 bridge. This stretch was one of my favorites. Near the beginning of the trip...*

On April 26, experienced paddler Brent Hunsinger put his canoe in the Rappahannock river, way up by the headwaters where the Jordan River flows into the Rappahannock — up in the Hume neighborhood. He then paddled the entire length of the river, all the way to the Chesapeake Bay—almost 170 miles, taking about 2 weeks. Almost the entire length of the river is in the Piedmont, making it of special interest to us.

In Fredericksburg, which is on the “fall line”, where the river

FINISH



...and in the Bay, near the end of the trip.

transitions from nontidal water to tidal water, he switched to a sea kayak. Along the way, he camped along the river on both public and (previously arranged) private land, talking to people about the river, and its importance to them and the region.

Brent's purpose was to raise funds for Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR), and bring awareness to the cultural, natural and historical resources of the river. He is a volunteer and staunch supporter of FOR, and passionate about the protection of the river and all it encompasses; the fish, wildlife, oysters (down by



Tabbs Ford bridge. The only road crossing in the 13-mile stretch from routes 647 to 211, near the beginning of the journey.



This is an osprey nest on a piling at one of the docks/ wharves used by sand/gravel mining operations that exist between Fredericksburg and Tappahannock. Sand and gravel used to be loaded on to barges but I am told this has not happened in recent years.



Raccoon tracks on an island in the stretch of river between Kellys Ford and Fredericksburg. This stretch of river is preserved due to the protected corridor of land owned by the city of Fredericksburg. Has a wilderness feel.

At the finish on Stingray Point in Deltaville, where the Rappahannock meets the Chesapeake Bay.



the bay), birds, history, vegetation, and maintaining the health of the river.

Brent posted very often on social media with both photos and videos, so if you want to really get a feel for the river and Brent's voyage, check out his Facebook page at www.facebook.com/rappriverodyssey and on Instagram at [rappriverodyssey](https://www.instagram.com/rappriverodyssey). It might inspire you to go spend some time on the river yourself!

Also check FOR's website (riverfriends.org) for events and volunteer opportunities to help the Rappahannock.