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RIVERPALOOZA 2018 KICK-OFF SET FOR JUNE 2: Harper's Ferry White Water Event Launches Two Months of Fishing, Bird Watching and Camping Paddles

WASHINGTON, DC – May 11, 2018 – A “*Make a SPLASH for Clean Water*” white water rafting trip in Harpers Ferry will officially kick-off the [RiverPalooza 2018](#) celebration, Jeff Kelble, President of the Potomac Riverkeeper Network (PRKN) announced today. *RiverPalooza* is a two-month long celebration that features river paddle trips ranging from bird watching, fishing and snorkeling on the Shenandoah to overnight camping on the Potomac’s beautiful Paw Paw Bends and runs from June 2– July 27.

In making the announcement, Kelble said, “*RiverPalooza* is back with fun and breathtakingly beautiful river outings. Help us kick-off this year’s celebration by joining us in historic Harpers Ferry, perhaps the most scenic place along the entire Potomac River, for a fun day on the river and then enjoy post-float festivities (optional camping) at Harpers Ferry Adventure Center (HFAC) to commemorate PRKN’s year-round work to protect and defend these national treasures.”

Hosted by PRKN’s three Riverkeepers, Brent Walls, Upper Potomac Riverkeeper, Dean Naujoks, Potomac Riverkeeper, and Mark Frondorf, Shenandoah Riverkeeper, the Shenandoah and Potomac River trip will include two launch sites, beginner tubing and raft trips along with intermediate-level floats beginning in Millville and end at Potoma Wayside. It includes a variety of different boat configurations designed for all skill levels, either seated in a guided raft with expert guides or on forgiving inflatable “ducky” kayaks. For those who have their own whitewater kayak, shuttle service is available from River Riders. This beautifully scenic paddle will float through Bull Falls, the Staircase, past Harpers Ferry National Historic Park, and through the Mad Dog and White Horse Rapids—literally the best whitewater in the Harpers Ferry area.

Added Naujoks, “Whether you are an absolute, never-done-it-before whitewater novice or a hardcore, adrenaline-junkie veteran paddler, this is the trip for you! Join us to run the confluence stretch of the Shenandoah where she merges with the Potomac River. You’ll hit all the best whitewater in the Harpers Ferry area and take out at Potoma Wayside which just so happens to have a gorgeous hidden waterfall where Piney Run spills into the Potomac.”

Added Walls, “It’s gonna be sooo much fun! Stretches of this paddle are along the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. We will be hanging around post-float grilling. So, bring something for the grill and please join us to enjoy an amazing view, catch up with old friends and meet new ones! Fun for the whole family!”

Riverkeepers are planning on camping overnight. Anyone so inclined, may make overnight arrangements through Harper's Ferry Adventure Center for a campsite or cabin (540) 668-9007. The paddle begins at 12 noon at [River Riders, Inc.](#), 408 Alstadts Hill Rd, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425, (800) 326-7238. Ducky rentals are \$65 and rafts are \$75 per seat.

For more information, to register or to learn about other RiverPalooza events visit our [website](#).

Potomac Riverkeeper Network (PRKN) runs *RiverPalooza* in collaboration with sponsors and partners with a single goal in mind: the more people experience and enjoy our rivers, the more they will value them. *RiverPalooza* includes events in locations from the greater metropolitan Washington area to the rural areas of the Shenandoah and the Upper Potomac and raises awareness for the many roles the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers play: as recreational destinations that inspire and delight, a habitat for an amazing assortment of wildlife, an economic driver for tourism and development, a window into our nation's history, and the source of drinking water for 6 million residents.

Concluded Kelble, "After our kick-off event we will be hosting another 11 events through the next several weeks, concluding on July 27. [Registration](#) is now open so don't wait: book your paddle today. It's sure to be an experience you won't forget."

About Potomac Riverkeeper Network

Potomac Riverkeeper Network is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization with three regional Waterkeeper branches: Potomac Riverkeeper, Upper Potomac Riverkeeper and Shenandoah Riverkeeper. Our mission is to protect the public's right to clean water in our rivers and streams. We stop pollution to promote safe drinking water, protect healthy habitats, and enhance public use and enjoyment.

For more information visit RiverPalooza2018.org.