



February 15, 2024

The Battle for Craigs Creek:

On Monday February 12, a dedicated group of Craigs Creekers spent the entire day in court for the trial of the Lemons vs. Virginia. At 4:00 pm the Lemons threw in the towel and non-suited.

That means they dropped the suit. Yes, we have won, for now.

Now nonsuited means they could refile within 6 months, but I think they have realized they have met their match.

The heroes of the day start with the attorney Rosalie Fessier, who did a great job. More on Rosalie later.

And the heroes include: Terry Grimes, Woody Lipps, Ned Savage, Tom Christenbury, Jill Wickham, Ava Smith, Pete Katt, Sam & Nancy Pillis, Jim Kern, Dwayne & Sandara Martin, Dustin Eshelman, Harry Kessler, Juanita Tanger and me!

The battle was sometimes boring, but sometimes delightful. One highlight: Wm Lemon testified to all of the awful people trashing the place, complaining about all the people having fun in the creek. But he had no photos of trash.

Then Rosalie asked him if any of his cows were in the creek. His answer, "Well I hope not."

That is the epitome of hypocrisy. On a canoe float, Terry and I shot photos of his cows in the creek with the entire bank loaded with liquid cow manure. I also asked Steven Lemon if he would be OK with volunteers repairing the fence. Steven's only response was: the farm is for sale.

It was a long day in court – 9:30 until 4:00 pm. To start, the judge made three of us leave the courtroom: Terry, Dustin and me. We were not allowed to hear the testimony of others.

But during the breaks we overheard enough to know what was going on, generally.

So it is over, but maybe not over.

We spent over \$3,700 on amicus briefs. I am suggesting that we have a Fundraiser Float in the spring or early summer and ask for a donation of maybe \$20 per head.

We have a site that we can use for the event. Wilderness Adventures is on the creek, with parking and space for a cookout. Please give some serious thought to attending.

It should be a happy occasion. I know it will be for me.

Thanks to all of you Friends. We impressed the hell out of the judge, the Lemons, the media and the political jurisdictions. We all helped get the right decision made by the Lemons and the judge.

Hope to see you this spring/summer on the creek.

----- Bill Tanger, Chair, FORVA Cell: 540-266-0237

FCC – trial memo to all - 2-15-24