



The Dragon's Tale

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Gloucester, VA 23061

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Friends of Dragon Run, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to the preservation, protection, and encouragement of wise use of the Dragon Run and its watershed.

APRIL 27, 2016 GENERAL MEETING

Protecting Virginia Marshes Using Conservation Detection Dogs

Interested in wetland conservation? Love dogs? Want to learn how dogs are protecting Virginia's marshes?

Join us at the next Friends of Dragon Run General Meeting to be held at the Gloucester County Library Community Room, Wednesday April 27, 2016. Doors open at 7pm; speaker at 7:30 pm. Free and open to the public.

Todd Engelmeyer and Megan Vick with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will present their work on the use of conservation detection dogs (mainly Labrador Retrievers) to detect the presence or absence of non-native, invasive Nutria.

or mussels. Their destructive feeding habits have resulted in the loss of tens of thousands of acres of marsh to erosion throughout the Chesapeake Bay.

Todd and Megan's presentation will discuss Nutria and their sta-



Nutria are large, prolific, semi-aquatic rodents native to South America; similar in appearance to our native muskrat. They feed on aquatic plants and roots as well as small creatures such as snails

and the research being conducted with conservation detection dogs to help develop a program to control the invasive species and promote the preserva-

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- ◇ Ecotour Guide Course
- ◇ Lots of Pictures

Roadside Trash Pickup Saturday, April 23 9 AM

Meet in the parking lot of Rappahannock Community College in Glens. For more information, contact Hugh Markham at markham@crosslink.net

The Workday scheduled for April 23rd has been cancelled, but the Trash Pickup will be held as planned. Anyone not paddling or supporting the Paddle Trip Program that day is encouraged to contact Hugh Markham (and sign up to help with the trash pickup.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Janice Moore



Everyone has been so welcoming in my new role for the Friends of Dragon Run. It's spring again and there's so much to be excited about. As you'll see in this edition of your newsletter, we're busy with all sorts of activities in and about the Dragon.

It's almost paddle season!!! My first thought is YAY!!! And all my other thoughts are the same. We've had a record response to advance reservations and also Teta's call for volunteers to be crew members. We should have a very successful paddle season and I hope that you are able to join us on the Dragon. We'll be surveying everyone who paddles with us this year, so please help by giving us feedback on your paddle experience and encourage others to do the same.

For the first time on paddle trips, we will be offering each paddler a laminated brochure with names and photos of the flora and fauna of Dragon Run to help them identify what they see when they are on the Dragon. Each paddler will be able to take an unlaminated paper copy of the brochure home with them. Many thanks to Adrienne Frank and Teta Kain for making the brochure possible.

As you will read in this newsletter, our 2016 trash pickup and workdays have been quite successful – and tons of fun. Thanks so much to those of you who have joined us to help maintain our properties and the

roads to access them. If you haven't come out to help with trash pickup or trail clearing yet, I hope that you'll decide to come next time after you read about all the fun you can have. Our next trash pickup day is Saturday, April 23. I hope to see you there.

I encourage you to join us at our next General Meeting April 27th at the Gloucester Library to hear how dogs can help protect our marshes. I hope I will have the opportunity to meet you at the meeting and hear what sparked your passion for the Dragon. I am also interested in how we can help you be more active in our organization and your ideas about ways in which we can better accomplish our mission and build a better future for all of us.

This is another reminder that printing and mailing the newsletter is one of the biggest expenses in our budget. Please consider receiving the newsletter by email which will be in color and arrive earlier than the printed version. Please help our budget and the environment by contacting debcrollins@gmail.com and changing your newsletter subscription to email. Send me an email (jrmoore27@gmail.com), call me (703-217-0610), or write me a letter (P.O. Box 247, Deltaville, VA 23043) and let me know what you are thinking. I hope to see or hear from you very soon!!

(General Meeting Continued from page 1)
tion of Virginia marshes. Colonel, a trained detection dog, will demonstrate his nutria surveillance skills for the audience!

Todd has been a wildlife management professional for over 20 years, with diverse experience and expertise regarding game, nongame, and invasive species, focusing on effective cooperation with landowners and localities to develop and implement wildlife and habitat

management programs. He is experienced in identification of nutria sign and damage and use of floating platforms with remote cameras and hair snares to survey for nutria presence in areas with credible nutria reports; and represents VDGIF on the Mid-Atlantic Nutria Management Team.

Megan is a District Wildlife Biologist with extensive experience working with public and private landowners regarding manage-

ment of game, nongame, nuisance and/or diseased species and provides technical assistance to landowners regarding wildlife habitat management for wetlands and upland landscapes. In addition, she is owner of Natural Resource Protection Dogs, LLC, a private business evaluating dogs for working potential in conservation detection and tracking. She trains canines and handlers in both disciplines.

NEW STUFF!

FODR will soon have a new educational brochure. The *Flora and Fauna of the Dragon Run* contains photographs of some of the common species of plants (28) and animals (31) that participants may encounter while paddling the Dragon Run. Copies will be laminated so that they can be carried in kayaks during the paddle trips to help participants identify a few plants, birds, reptiles or insects they may see on the trip. The paper version of the brochure will be offered to paddlers at the take-out point, if they would like to have a copy.

Here are a couple of the photos contained in the brochure.



Top, Common Spatterdock or Yellow Pond-lily (*Nuphar advena*). Right, Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*)



We now have hats with our new Friends of Dragon Run logo!

For some time now, we've wanted to sell hats again – this time with our new Dragon Run logo. Hats will soon be available to buy online! You can have one for just \$20. Folks who paddle with us this season may buy them at our Fundraiser Sales table after each paddle down the Dragon. Be sure to tell all of your friends!

WHAT HAPPENS ON A FODR TRASH PICKUP DAY?

Bambi Thompson and Molly Broderson

We are new members of the Friends of Dragon Run Board. Thus far, we have attended a couple of board meetings where we have learned so much information about this precious resource, the Dragon! We also thought we would be physically involved so we joined a rather large group, 15 or so folks, to pick-up trash along Route 17. Who knew picking up trash could be such fun? It was a blast as we actually compared trash as we climbed up and down the road way. The weather was perfect and we enjoyed meeting new people. We both highly recommend it!



But wait, there's more! As new members, we were shown some flora and fauna located on the Ware Bridge tract. The picture above shows an artifact Davis found. I am not sure what species this picture depicts, but she is sure friendly, knowledgeable, and her accent is quite interesting!

Come out and join the fun! We promise you will see interesting sights, learn new information while having fun with like-minded folks.

WORK DAYS ON MARCH 12 & 26

John Jensen

Our latest work outing was designated to clean up the road on the Bulman tract, but we started out clearing a downed tree and limbs from recent storms on the road to Big Island. We then moved over to the Bulman property. There was quite a lot of work to do here as we haven't visited this property in a long time. We cleared numerous downed trees and tree limbs, working our way back to the end of the road. When we finished, we walked down the hill to the edge of the Dragon Run watershed where we took a break and enjoyed the scenery. Our last move was to Mascot to check the trail and eat lunch.

On March 26, we conducted a walking tour of the Milby tract, which adjoins the Mascot property, to see about the possibilities of a future trail to connect with the Nature Conservancy property that is across from the eagles nest. I want to thank our great group of volunteers for

their hard work and dedication to Friends of Dragon Run.

Check out some pictures in this issue!



Spotted Turtle (*Clemmys guttata*). Davis spotted this turtle and brought it a few yards to the group where Teta's sharp eyes identified it for everyone.

GIVE LOCAL 757 COMING ON MAY 3, 2016!!!

Friends of Dragon Run will participate in this charitable giving drive being offered by the Peninsula Community Foundation. Beginning at midnight on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 until 11:59 pm on Tuesday, May 3, 2016, everyone will be able to log on to the website <https://givelocal757.org/> and contribute to the charity of their choice, including, for the first time, Friends of Dragon Run.

Give Local 757 is offering this giving opportunity for the 3rd time this year, as part of Give Local America, a national 24-hour online crowdfunding event. The overall goal this year for Give Local 757 is to raise \$1 million for 200 nonprofits in 24

hours. There are many sponsors and promoters, including WVEC Channel 13, Sinclair Communications (owner of 6 local radio stations), and Rubin Communications Group as promoters, Bank of America as a



sponsor, along with Langley Federal Credit Union, which is making each of their branches donation sites on the day of the event for those who wish to do-

nate by check instead of logging on to the website. There are many incentive prizes for us to try to win, and we'll tell you more about them in the email that we'll be sending to everyone.

The minimum donation that can be made is \$10. There is no maximum donation. Each gift is 100% tax-deductible. All donations to Friends of Dragon Run will be collected for us and sent to us in one check for unrestricted use. We do hope that you'll remember to make a contribution on May 3 – watch for our reminders!!!



Workday highlights: Left, action shot for Adrienne and Janice. Right, Elisabeth (Lizzy) Clyne, a first year Master's student at VIMS, posing with the spotted turtle, featured on the previous page.

VIRGINIA CERTIFIED ECOTOUR GUIDE COURSE 2016

Janice Moore

Two of FODR's board members were recently certified as ecotour guides under the Virginia Certified Ecotour Guide course: Molly Broderson and Janice Moore. Molly and Janice took the course so that they could learn how to be a better crew member and support Teta Kain as FODR's Paddlemaster, understanding that we will have to find a way to guide paddlers down the Dragon after Teta retires in a couple of years. Rappahannock Community College

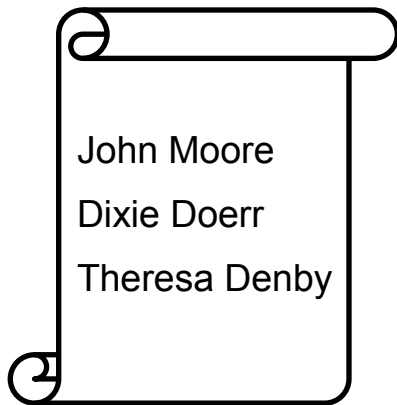
offers this 8-week course as part of its online curriculum. This year's course was coordinated by Shannon Alexander who owns Bay Country Kayaking. After examining the basic principles of sustainable ecotourism and "leave no trace" concepts, the course has units on everything from Chesapeake Bay ecosystems and its geological and cultural history to customer service and essential teaching and guide skills. In addition to Shannon, other experts were our teach-

ers. John Page Williams (Senior Naturalist, Chesapeake Bay Foundation) taught us about the cultural history and settlement of the Chesapeake Bay region. Richard Ayers (Coastal Operations Steward, Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation Division of Natural Heritage) was our instructor on planning for safety and emergency procedures. The certificate also requires current certification in First Aid, CPR, and AED.



Milby Tracy Tour Group Discussing Boundaries

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Dragon Bone?

IMPORTANT CONTACTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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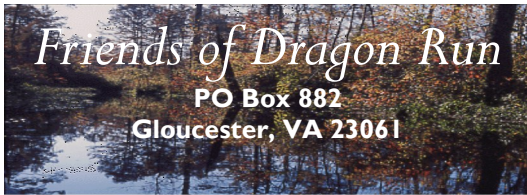
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www.dragonrun.org



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debcrollins@gmail.com to receive
your copy via email today!

Have a Change of Address? Just send to FODR, PO Box 882, Gloucester, VA 23061

FODR Activities for 2016

April

5-6 Paddle Season Preps.
9 Paddle Season Starts
23 Deltaville Farmers Mkt.
23 Highway Trash Pickup
25 Business Meeting
27 General Meeting

May

8 Paddle Season Ends
14 Deltaville Seafood Festival
21 Kayak Cleanup Day
23 Business Meeting
28 Deltaville Farmers Mkt

June

25 Deltaville Farmers Mkt

July

23 Deltaville Farmers Mkt

August

22 Business Meeting
24 Newsletter Deadline
27 Deltaville Farmers Mkt

September

9-10 Mathews Market Days
15-16 Amazing Raise
17 Fall Picnic
TBA General Meeting
24 Highway Trash Pickup
24 Fall Picnic Raindate

24 Deltaville Farmers Mkt.
26 Business Meeting

October

7-8 WP Crab Carnival
19 Newsletter Deadline
24 Business Meeting

November

4-5 Urbanna Oyster Festival
TBA Annual Meeting
19 Highway Trash Pickup
28 Business Meeting

December

5 Planning Meeting