

Dragon's Tale

Friends of Dragon Run
PO Box 882
Gloucester, VA 23061

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.

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FODR GENERAL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Invasive species! Here's a topic that we sometimes overlook, yet plants and animals that do not naturally occur in an environment can raise havoc with native wildlife and habitat. The devastation that an alien species can inflict upon a habitat or indigenous species is often not recognized until it is too late.

Even though we say the Dragon is "pristine," there are already invasive plants and animals that are altering the environment in and along the river. Blue catfish and phragmites are already there and it's only a matter of time before we start seeing other species such as nutria altering the landscape of the river.

Todd Engelmeyer is one of five biologists in the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and his area of responsibility is Region 1 which includes the Dragon Run Watershed. On Wednesday, September 18, Engelmeyer will present a program at the Friends of Dragon Run General Meeting. He will address the issue of invasive plants and animals in the watershed - what is already here, what might arrive in the near future and what is being done to meet these challenges.

Engelmeyer received his Master of Science degree from Christopher Newport University and has been a wildlife biologist for the past 25 years. He is currently employed as a District Biologist for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. His district stretches from the Potomac River in the north to the James River in the south and includes the Eastern Shore.

Please join Friends of Dragon Run at its first general meeting of the season to hear this exceptional speaker and learn more about invasive species. The public is welcome. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. the Gloucester County Main Library located in the Main Street Shopping Center on Business Route 17 at the southern edge of Gloucester Courthouse. Refreshments will be available before, during and after the meeting.



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Ever Save a Dragon?

**ROADSIDE TRASH
PICKUP IS
SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 21
AT 9AM**

Meet in the parking lot of
Rappahannock Community
College in Glens.

For more information, contact
Hugh Markham at
markham@crosslink.net

FODR ANNUAL PICNIC—SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

See Page 4 For Details and Registration Form

AMAZING RAISE—6AM ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 THROUGH 6PM ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

See Page 5 For Details

Looking Ahead

By Davis Rhodes

This fall promises to be eventful and exciting. There are several events planned for our members and guests, and we have a new fundraising activity to tell you about.

Friends has partnered with Give Gloucester.org/Give Richmond.org in a fundraising event, "The Amazing Raise", which opens a new door for our donors. Friends of Dragon Run members have always been generous and loyal financial supporters of our organization in our efforts to protect and preserve the Dragon Run Watershed, by using the U. S. Postal Service to deliver their gift check. That option still exists, and works well for us, but we now have an additional vehicle for donations through the electronic media. Please read the "Amazing Raise" article elsewhere in this issue. Board Member David Henderson has superbly managed our effort to be included in this year's "Amazing Raise" event. We hope that you will find this method to be useful, and that you will continue to support our conservation efforts as you have so graciously done in the past. FODR is also eligible for a \$2,500.00 prize awarded to the organization which is the first to get 50, \$50.00 unique donations during this year's event. Help us win an extra \$2,500.00 with your early, \$50 donation! Your donations this year to FODR, whether by the internet or the U. S. mail, will be used to further our conservation efforts in the Dragon. As you know, FODR is an **entirely voluntary** organization. With no paid staff, we try very hard to minimize our overhead and make your donations count to the fullest. There are 600 beautiful, protected acres along the Dragon to attest to your generosity and our commitment. Thanks for being there for us all.

September 18th is also the date of our next General meeting, to be held in the Community Room of the Gloucester Main Library. Join us at 7:00 P.M. for light refreshments, a brief social, and then stay for a presentation by Todd Engelmeyer. He will talk about invasive species in Virginia. Todd has visited us before and always has a fascinating program to offer. Don't miss it.

Hugh Markham will coordinate a highway trash pickup at the Dragon Run stream crossings on September 21st. Volunteers who can help should meet Hugh at the RCC Parking Lot at Glenss at 9:00 A.M. that Saturday morning. Believe it or not, there are lots of "interesting" things to be seen along the side of the highways. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes and clothing. Safety vests will be provided.

The FODR Fall Picnic will be held on Saturday, September 28th at the Big Island Landing beginning at 11:00 A.M. This picnic is always a fun event with BBQ, excellent side dishes, and soft drinks and iced tea to drink. All is being well-coordinated by our Director and Picnic Chair, Darbie MacCubbin. See Darbie's announcement and the reservation form, elsewhere in this issue. Bring a folding chair to relax in and enjoy a visit with others during and after the picnic or take a walk on one of the several trails close by to visit Mother Nature at her finest on the Dragon. I hope to see you there, so mail your reservation today.

In closing, I would like to thank resigning Director, Brent Slaughter, for his help and guidance over the past eight months with us. Brent has relocated to Southwestern Virginia to pursue a job opportunity and has left the area. We wish Brent well and much success in his new endeavor. I would also like to welcome new Director, Christine Tombleson, who has joined our Board as Brent's successor. We look forward to benefitting from Christine's talent and knowledge in our quest to become the best organization we can be.

Until next time, have a happy and safe fall season!

Davis

2013 PADDLE SEASON RECAP

Teta Kain



Another great paddle season on the river! We were able to conduct trips 28 out of 30 days scheduled. We also topped our record of the number of participants, 294, nine more than last year.

Because almost every trip was fully booked we scheduled 5 crew members every day. This seemed to work better all around. The physical work for the crew members was not quite as intense and we were better able to provide individual attention for paddlers especially those who were inexperienced.

Several crew members, who have extensive kayak instruction backgrounds, were able to pass on some great tips to make progress down the river much easier for all.

To successfully carry out the season it takes much effort and time on the part of many people. To prove that, look at the statistics racked up this year:

- 2 days preparing kayaks and equipment & transporting boats to the Dragon
- 1 exploration day to clear the river and orient new crew members
- 28 trip days
- 19 crew members
- 144 total crew member work days (includes prep days)
- 1152 crew hours (includes work/orientation day)
- 11,282 crew miles

Perhaps an explanation of the high number of work hours is called for here. All crew members rise very early to drive an hour or more to reach their assigned stations on time. They help ready participants for the trip; serve as assistants during the trip; and load, transport and unload boats. Finally they make the long drive back home at the end of the day. It is easy to say that each one puts in at least an 8 hour work day.

There is one other aspect of paddle season that takes immense time and effort - scheduling and keeping track of all of the people who book trips. We opened registration in mid-January this year and from that date on through the end of paddle season, our scheduler, Martha Graham, sent and received hundreds of e-mails, responded to uncountable numbers of phone calls, sent out daily confirmation reminders and updated scheduling sheets for the paddlemaster on a daily basis. The number of hours Martha spent and the effort she gave to keep everything straight is almost unimaginable. Without Martha's unflagging dedication to the job, the whole paddle season would not have been possible.

Even though it takes a lot of work on the part of a lot of people, we feel the trips are worth the effort to show people why the Dragon is so special and why we feel so strongly that it's a river worth preserving. Seeing it up close and personal is the best way to convey that message.

**LOOK FOR A 2014 PADDLE SEASON UPDATE IN THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF THE
*Dragon's Tale***

KAYAK CLEAN UP DAY



ANNUAL FODR PICNIC—SATURDAY, September 28—BIG ISLAND

Don't miss our annual picnic on **Saturday, September 28th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** at the "Big Island put in" on the banks of beautiful Dragon Run. Members and friends are welcome to this fun event. The food is always wonderful. This year, Darbie Maccubbin is organizing the food. Contact her at - darbiemaccubbin@hotmail.com or 908-612-9962 to volunteer your special side dish, salad, dessert or whatever you wish. BBQ and coleslaw will be provided. Also you may want to bring folding chairs to relax in after lunch.

Please register by using the form below. Include your phone number in case we need to postpone or cancel due to inclement weather.

Because there is no space for parking vehicles at Big Island landing, a shuttle will be run back and forth to the picnic area. However, no service will be available between 12 noon and 1:00 p.m., so do plan to arrive early!

Volunteers are needed for set up, car shuttles, and clean up. If you can help or have questions, please contact Darbie Maccubbin.

Friends of Dragon Run
ANNUAL PICNIC at Big Island
SATURDAY September 28, 2013

Name: _____
Phone: () _____ - _____
Number of adults @ \$5.00 each _____
Number of children under 16 (no charge) _____
Total amount enclosed: _____

Mail this reservation form and your check, payable to Friends of Dragon Run, to:
FODR, P.O. Box 882, Gloucester, VA, 23061

NOTE: Please make sure this form arrives no later than September 25th.

“The Amazing Raise”

6AM Wednesday, September 18 through 6PM Thursday, September 19

Friends of Dragon Run has recently affiliated with GiveRichmond.org, a powerful on-line tool designed to encourage charitable giving. This September, for the third year, GiveRichmond.org is hosting "The Amazing Raise", an on-line fund raiser for over 500 participating non-profit organizations throughout the region. Last year's "Amazing Raise" netted over \$1.2 million.

GiveRichmond.org gives charitable donors like you an opportunity to bundle your giving to multiple organizations in one location. GiveRichmond.org sorts and distributes the proper gifts to organizations you designate. GiveRichmond.org gives FODR the opportunity to receive donations from our supporters via credit/debit card.

GiveRichmond.org is an umbrella site that encompasses GiveGloucester, GiveMatthews and GiveRiverCounties program sites. Internet users who go to any of these websites will be re-directed to GiveRichmond.

In addition to direct donations to participating non-profit charitable organizations, GiveRichmond.org will award many \$1000 bonus prizes throughout the 36 hour "Amazing Raise". For example, the "Midnight Madness" prize will go to the organization that receives the donation made closest to midnight on September 18! Various other \$1000 prizes are based on the number of \$25 donations an organization receives. So your \$25 donation could turn into \$1025 for FODR.

If you have a credit/debit card and internet access, please go to GiveRichmond.org from 6AM on Wednesday, September 18 through 6PM on Thursday, September 19 and help FODR participate in this major regional fund raising activity. Also, please ask your friends to participate for FODR and for their favorite charitable organizations.

If you prefer donations are always very welcome at:

Friends of Dragon Run
PO Box 882
Gloucester, VA 23061

CHANGE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brent Slaughter has resigned as a Director of Friends of Dragon Run as he is leaving the area to pursue a new job assignment in southwestern Virginia. Best wishes to Brent and his family on this new opportunity.

Christine Tombleson will replace Brent on the Board of Directors.

Important Contacts

S. Davis Rhodes	President	(757) 484-9522	s.d.rhodes@verizon.net
Adrienne Frank	Treasurer	(757) 566-4009	adrienne-gary@cox.net
Mark Chittenden	Immediate Past President	(804) 642-6060	markc@vims.edu
Tom Gregory	Property Manager	(804) 462-5608	Dragonswamp@kaballero.com
Teta Kain	Paddlemaster	(804) 693-5246	tkdragonrun7@gmail.com
Hugh Markham	Roadside Trash Pick Up		hmarkham@crosslink.net

PLEASE TELL US WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU?

The FODR Board is working on setting priorities for the coming year. There are a number of important goals and activities. We could use your help in choosing which to devote time and effort. Please rank the following areas and then describe what you believe to be the most important.

- Research** (Promote scientific studies, partner with universities or other organizations)
- Education** (Teach the general public about the value of the Dragon Run, educate children about nature)
- Community Connection** (Work with like organizations, public entities, legislators, etc.)
- Stewardship** (Develop forests plans, create easements, and care for our property; Raise funds to create an endowment to cover costs of taxes and maintenance)
- Property Acquisition** (Raise funds to buy property along the Dragon Run)
- Organizational Development** (Increase and involve membership, enhance board structure and function, increase skill of board members)

Rank these by using:

- *** for your 1st choice (highest priority)
- ** 2nd choice (next most important)
- * 3rd choice (third most important)

Please describe your priorities

Email your responses to Adrienne Frank at adrienne-gary@cox.net

Or

Mail this to FODR, PO Box 882, Gloucester, VA 23061

CONGRATULATIONS! Jack Musick

We have a celebrity in our midst. FODR Board Member Jack Musick, along with co-author Edward O. Murdy and illustrator Val Kells received a nice review in the *Daily Press* on June 11 about their newly published book, **Field Guide to Fishes of the Chesapeake Bay**. It is a reference guide to fish in the bay and its major tributaries. It beautifully describes and illustrates more than 200 saltwater and freshwater species. The book is available on Amazon.com.

DO YOU JUST BELONG???

Author Unknown

*Are you an active member,
The kind that would be missed?*

*Or are you just contented,
That your name is on the list?
Do you attend the meetings,
And mingle with the flock?
Or do you meet in private,
And criticize and knock?
Do you take an active part,
To help the work along?
Or are you satisfied to be,
The kind who just belongs?*

*Do you work on committees,
To this there is no trick.
Or leave the work to just a few,
And talk about the clique?
Please come to the meetings often,
And help with hand and heart.
Don't just be a member,
But take an active part.
Think this over members,
You know what's right from wrong.
Are you an active member,*

Or do you just belong?

HELP WANTED

Historian/Scrapbooker—To maintain a record of FODR's accomplishments and activities including:

- Collect memorabilia about FODR and it's members such as photographs and clippings.
- Organize and document so that the information will be meaningful to present and future readers.
- Meet other FODR members and make new friends. FODR events are both fun and educational.

Contact Davis Rhodes at s.d.rhodes@verizon.net or Teta Kain at tkdragonrun7@gmail.com for further information.

CONDOLENCES

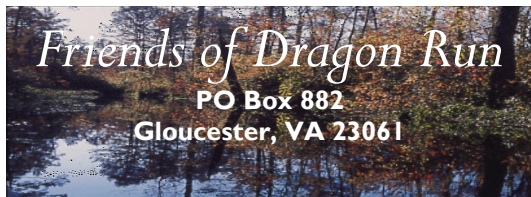
Our sincere condolences to longtime member Bob Hancock and his family on the loss of his wife Marty on May 30, 2013.



Annual Picnic is September 28



Picnic Area View on Big Island



www.dragonrun.org



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

FODR Activities for 2013

September

7 Market Days

18 General Meeting*, Gloucester Lib.

21 Highway Trash Pickup

23 Business Meeting, Saluda MPPDC

28 **Fall Picnic**

October

5 Crab Carnival

12 Dragon Run Day

23 Newsletter Deadline

28 Business Meeting, Saluda MPPDC

November

2 Oyster Festival

13 Annual Meeting, Gloucester

Library**

16 Highway Trash Pickup

28 Thanksgiving

December

2 Annual Planning Meeting, Saluda

MPPDC

* General Meetings begin at 7 PM for refreshments & conversation; followed by a program at 7:30PM.

** Annual Meeting begins at 7 PM for refreshments & conversation; followed by a business meeting & program at 7:30 PM.