



The Dragon's Tale

Friends of Dragon
Run

PO Box 882
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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.

Spring Paddle Season Cancelled!

By Janice Moore, President

Recent news about COVID-19 has impacted us all. FODR's primary concern is for the health and well-being of the people and communities we serve. Based on the latest directives from the CDC and other sources, the FODR board decided it would be unwise to continue with our scheduled programs and events. We cancelled all activities through the end of June, including the 2020 Spring Paddle Season, scheduled to begin April 11. We also cancelled the membership meeting scheduled for April 14. These were not easy decisions, but the safety of our paddlers and our volunteer crew members is always foremost.

As you know, Friends of Dragon Run is a non-profit volunteer organization. We depend on membership dues and other donations to continue our mission to preserve, protect, and encourage the wise use of Dragon Run and its watershed. Our spring and fall paddles are our principal sources of funds for land



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**Roadside
Trash Pickup
April 18
CANCELLED**

Get Your Spring Wardrobe Essentials

Visit DragonRun.org/shop

Hats and a variety of shirt styles, all with the FODR logo.



Spring Paddle Season Cancelled (continued from page 1)

purchase and stewardship of our properties. This cancellation, following cancellation of the 2019 Fall Paddle, was quite a blow.

The hopeful paddlers who made reservations for our Spring Paddle Season responded to this news with heartfelt sympathy and disappointment. Many opted to let FODR keep their donations and became members (or renewed their membership). Others decided to help us attract a matching gift offer from a few generous donors. Their donations will be added to an endowment fund that will support land management. Some paddlers snagged our stylish FODR shirts or hats by allowing FODR to keep their donations. Understandably, some requested refunds, and we know that these are difficult times for our families and friends. We were overwhelmed by the response of our paddlers and are grateful for their kind words and generosity.

FODR will continue to monitor the guidance from federal, state, and local authorities about COVID-19 as well as water levels and vegetation in Dragon Run. We hope to schedule our Fall Paddle Season to begin in early October and end November 1. We will keep you advised.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during these unprecedented times, and thank you for your support of Friends of Dragon Run. Stay safe and well and join us on a future paddle or other event.

The Importance of Membership

Your membership gives you a stake in the success of Friends of Dragon Run. Membership dues cover FODR operating expenses, such as real estate taxes and insurance. Income from the spring and fall paddle trips is also used for operating expenses as well as for land and equipment purchases. Board, committee, paddle, and logistic crew members are volunteers; so, 100% of the funds collected are used to fulfill FODR's mission.

In 2019, we changed membership renewal to a calendar year membership rather than using anniversary dates. Membership starts at just \$25 and is good from January 1 until December 31. Individuals who join FODR in the middle of the year will pay a prorated

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Meet the New Membership Chair

Congratulations to FODR's new Membership Chair, Anne Ducey-Ortiz. Anne has been a member of FODR since she moved to Dutton, Virginia in 2002. She has held several roles on the FODR Board. She also has been a member of the paddle crew for many years. Anne truly loves the Dragon and the people dedicated to preserving and protecting it.

As the Membership Chair, Anne will work with other Board members to ensure that the
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The Importance of Membership (continued from page 2)

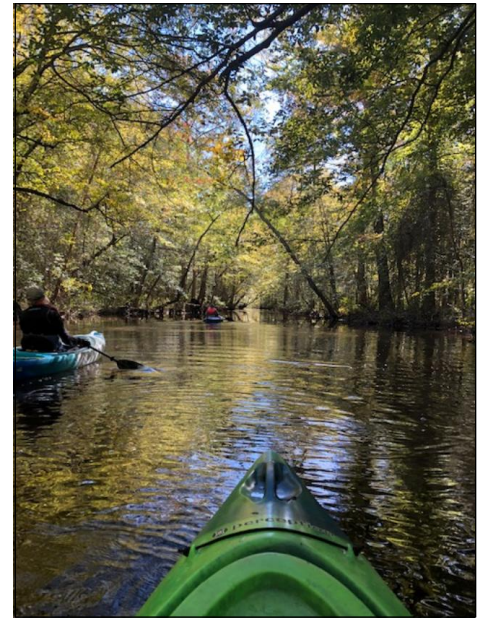
membership fee of 50% of the annual dues amount. Individuals who join (or renew) during the last quarter of the year will pay the annual membership fee for the coming year and will enjoy FODR membership for the remaining months of the current year at no additional cost.

You can join or renew your membership at www.dragonrun.org or you can send a check to Friends of Dragon Run, P. O. Box 882, Gloucester, VA 23061. Be sure to include your email address and phone number. If you are a current member but have not been receiving the newsletter and other communications, please contact Anne Ducey-Ortiz so she can update the database. You can email her at president@dragonrun.org.

The membership committee is exploring different ideas for membership and how to increase our member base. We are looking for committee members to help us explore these topics. If you'd like to join the membership committee or if you have suggestions or concerns, please contact us at president@dragonrun.org.

Meet the New Membership Chair (continued from page 2)

FODR database is current and accurate. She will also coordinate membership drives to remind current members to renew and to add more members to the FODR community.



Book Review

Princeton Field Guide: *Dragonflies and Damselflies of the East*

Author: Dennis Paulson

by Jeff Wright

One of the frequently seen citizens of the Dragon on our spring paddle is the Ebony Jewel Wing. This large and rather beautiful damselfly, *Calopteryx maculate*, lands on our kayaks but mostly is seen in motion on the plants that line the edges of the paddle trail or in the water. I have always liked watching them, enjoying their amazing aerial antics, and wondering about their life cycle and the food webs they are a part of.

No other North American Damselfly is metallic green with black wings. The male of the species - which is metallic green all over - often looks blue, which adds to its stunning appearance when perched on a leaf. They love slow flowing forest streams, usually associated
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with herbaceous vegetation. But, they also favor hanging out at faster moving sections of the water. They are active much of the day and roost in trees along the banks at night. They have a short life cycle of about three weeks - a third of which they spend in immature form.

One of my favorite Teta Kain quotes is “you can never have too many field guides.” She is right! A very good field guide to learn more about Ebony Jewel Wings and their courtship rituals, mating, and territorial defense is the Princeton Field Guide: *Dragonflies and Damselflies of the East* by Dennis Paulson. Reading the pages on the Ebony Jewel Wing and other insect citizens of the Dragon will certainly add to your understanding of the importance of the Dragon Run watershed and all of the wonderful creatures that depend on it.

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