

# Dragon's Tale

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.

Friends of Dragon Run  
PO Box 882  
Gloucester, VA 23061

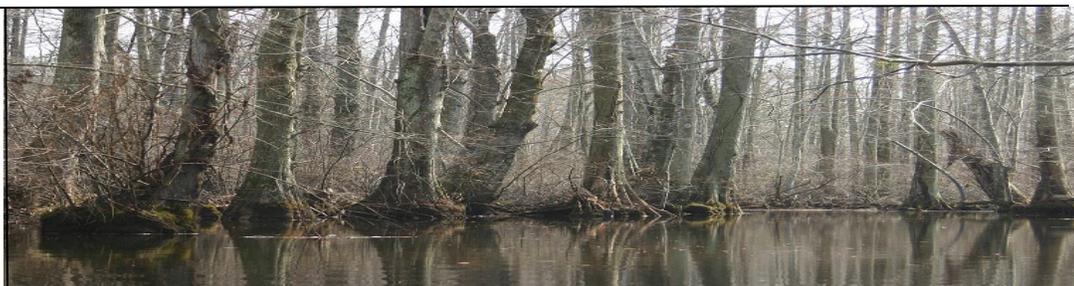
Volume XXX Number IV

November 2014

## November 12 Annual Meeting to Feature A Look at the Early Days of FODR A "Conversation" with Harvey Morgan

Our Annual Meeting this year will feature the election of Officers and Board Members as it does each year, but our featured speaker will, indeed, be a special treat for everyone. Harvey Bland Morgan, a Founding Member of Friends, has graciously accepted an invitation to share his memories of the "early days" of FODR with us. We are certain that Harvey's remarks will include some humorous as well as memorable and significant events that have shaped our organization. These events will last forever as historical landmarks for Friends. As most of our readers know, James Vincent "Jimmy" Morgan, Harvey's brother, was instrumental in founding our organization and its efforts to protect and preserve the Dragon Run. Harvey and Jimmy shared many experiences that had a significant bearing on events but which are not well known. We are hoping for a good membership turnout, as well as visits from many of our other Founding Members who may well be able to add a few interesting comments of their own.

Our meeting will be held at the Gloucester Public Library, Main Branch, located on Business Route 17 at the foot of Main Street at the south end of Gloucester Court House, on Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. The doors will open for light refreshments and an opportunity to socialize with friends at 7:00 PM and we will begin our Business Meeting at 7:30 PM for the election of Officers and Board Members. Following the business portion of our meeting Harvey will address the gathering for an eagerly anticipated review of our early trials and successes. This event will be an exciting look back at the past and will undoubtedly bring back many memories to those who have devoted time and energy toward the success of our organization. Don't miss this one folks. It is guaranteed to be well worth your time to attend.



Winter on the Dragon

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*Ever Save a Dragon?*

**ROADSIDE  
TRASH PICKUP IS  
SATURDAY, NOV.  
15 AT 9:00 AM**

Meet in the parking lot of Rappahannock Community College in Glenss. For more information contact Hugh Markham at [markham@crosslink.net](mailto:markham@crosslink.net)

## *Looking Ahead. . .*

*By Davis Rhodes*

Sometimes as we attempt to plan for the future it is helpful to revisit the past.

It is hard to imagine that Friends is thirty years old this year; but time flies, and we are, indeed, beginning our thirty-first year. We spent the first six years developing our organization and defining its goals. We were finally incorporated on August 13, 1990. A lot has happened since then! We have enjoyed success in the protection of sensitive Dragon property. We are up to slightly over 600 Acres under protective ownership now. But we have experienced a few disappointments such as the construction of a landfill very near the banks of the Dragon Run itself.

Therefore it is fitting, I believe, that we take an opportunity to recognize the work and efforts of our Founders and to see what lessons they learned during those "early days". This year, our Annual Meeting will feature a "conversation" with Harvey Morgan, one of our Founders, about our beginnings and the struggle to build an organizational structure, craft a name, and decide how to pursue the goals of protecting the Dragon Run. Harvey has most graciously agreed to share some of his memories of these early meetings, and to talk about the challenges that our Founders faced back then. I am sure we will enjoy humorous anecdotes as well as fascinating facts about events that shaped our organization. Who knows, it might also provide some insight that might be helpful as we move forward.

Our Annual Meeting this year will be held at the Gloucester Public Library, Main Branch, on Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 P.M. The doors will open at 7:00 P.M. with light refreshments and an opportunity to socialize with others before we begin the Business Meeting and enjoy Harvey's conversation with us. I hope that you will join us and participate in the dialogue, as well as share in the memories. I encourage all our Founders to attend and to share their memories as well I am certain that you will find the experience to be a fascinating look back at our formation and growth even as we are "Looking Ahead" to the next thirty years. I am looking forward to this special evening and hope that you will be there to share it with us.

This will be my last "Looking Ahead" article, as I will be moving into the Immediate Past President's role next year after a very rewarding and active thirty years with Friends. Our Nominating Committee Chairman, Teta Kain, has once again produced a proposed slate of Officers and Board Members that is the envy of any organization. I want to thank her publicly for many years of exemplary service to our organization in a number of roles. I am most confident in the capabilities and commitment of both our current and potential Board Members and I look forward to seeing great things happening for FODR as the New Year unfolds.

Speaking of the new year, I would like to wish all our Members and readers a most Joyous and Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year! This is a time when family comes first and I urge everyone with travel plans to be particularly cautious, no matter which mode of transportation you choose to visit loved ones.



My Very Best to All!

*Davis*

## ELECTION OF 2015 OFFICERS

Teta Kain

It is again election time at Friends of Dragon Run officers and board members. The election will be held at the November 12 Annual Meeting. A brief description of each nominee and standing board member follows.

**Officer candidates** serve a one-year term, if elected, and have the option to run again next year.

President – Bruce Pully (Gloucester) - Bruce has served as Vice President for the past year. He has taken a very active part in all FODR activities and has been very active in the paddle trip program.

Vice President – Anne Ducey-Ortiz (Dutton) – The vice-presidency is always difficult to fill as the individual accepting it is looked upon as the future president of the organization. That is a daunting task and not many are willing to make such a commitment. It took some arm twisting but we couldn't have found a better person for the position than Anne. Previously she was FODR secretary for six years and has always maintained an avid interest in FODR.

Secretary – Cynthia Honablue (Locust Hill) – has been secretary for a number of years and has consented to run again. Cynthia has served as hostess at all our general meetings and is always available to help out at any event.

Treasurer – Adrienne Frank (Williamsburg) – This will be Adrienne's second year as treasurer. The treasurer's job is complicated and takes a lot of time to accomplish all the tasks involved. Adrienne is willing to go at least one more year in the position.

**Returning Board Members** who will stand again. Each is ending a two-year term and has agreed to return for another two year term.

Robert Gibson (Mattaponi) – Robert has been a board member for a number of years. His life-long residency in King & Queen County plus his many local contacts make him a valuable asset to our board.

John Jensen (Aylett) – John is the assistant property manager to Tom Gregory. He does a tremendous amount of work on the trails and has served as a crew member on paddle trips for several years.

Teta Kain (Gloucester) - Teta is a long-time member of FODR and leader of the spring kayak trips.

David Milby (Saluda) – David is a state forester. His unique knowledge of forest management and state laws governing land usage has helped to guide us for many years.

**Board Members appointed mid-term who will stand for election.** Two individuals were appointed this past summer to fill slots of board members who had to vacate their positions for personal reasons.

Jon Lucy (Gloucester) – Jon is a long time member of FODR. He retired from VIMS this year and is excited to be back on the board to take an active role after a long absence.

Christine Tombleson (Gloucester) - Christine works at VIMS. She is knowledgeable of wetlands and laws governing their usage.

Continued on Page 4

## Nominations (continued)

### **New Nominations to the Board of Directors** standing for a two year term.

Janice Moore (Deltaville) – A recently retired lawyer, Janice very excited to stand for election. She has loads of good ideas and lots of energy, is an avid kayaker and looks forward to serving on the kayak trips next spring.

Curtis Hill (Gloucester) – Curtis and his wife are very active environmentalists. They have been members of FODR for a long time. Their home is right where the Dragon turns into the Piankatank.

### **Immediate Past President.**

Davis Rhodes (Chesapeake) – This a not a position up for election but a very important position on the board. His knowledge of corporate history, his deep understanding of on-going projects, his many contacts and connections concerning the organization's activities make Davis a vital component to the success of the incoming board. Davis is a founding member and has probably served FODR in more capacities and longer than any other member in all the years the organization has been in existence.

### **Board Members with one more year to serve:**

Henry Cathey (Gloucester)– “Tex”, as he is known to all, is a founding member. He was a very active member for many years. Work and other commitments rendered his role in FODR inactive for a time but he is now back on the board.

Jed Dolan (Gloucester) –This will probably be Jed's last year as he finishes out his term. He has personal and family issues which make things a bit hard for him to volunteer his time.

Robert Hancock (Mascot) – Bob is back on the board after a brief absence. Bob provides the major transport vehicles for the spring paddle trips.

Jim Pettyjohn (Hartfield) –Jim, with his strength and willingness to help just about every weekend, is of tremendous help on paddle trip crewing. He and his wife Sherry with their crew of high school volunteers help with the Adopt-a-Highway program that FODR conducts four times a year.

Rachel Williams (Mascot) – Rachel is a long time member who has served many years on the board. Her home stands near the entrance to Big Island and she keeps an eye on activities in the area to safeguard our properties there.

**Retiring Board Members** These individuals have found that their schedules do not allow them to continue serving on the board this year but their contributions to FODR are noteworthy:

Darbie Maccubbin - Though she will be off the board, Darbie does plan to remain active in FODR and will serve as sales manager for the T-shirt and sales table at festivals and paddle trips.

David Henderson – (Tappahannock) A botanist at heart, David has become very involved in activities in Essex County and his volunteer time has become greatly limited. He finds the drive from the northern part of Essex County down to Saluda each month more than he wants to tackle at this time. He does plan, however, to continue chairing the Amazing Raise for FODR.

## FODR FALL PICNIC

Darbie Maccubbin



Enjoying the FODR Picnic



FODR Picnickers Anne Ducey-Ortiz & Dan Ortiz

Approximately 30 people attended the FODR Fall picnic held Saturday, September 27 at Big Island. The weather could not have been any better and the food, as always, was plentiful and delicious.

Among the attendees this year were Life Scouts, Curtis Jones, Jr. and Andy Schramm from the Gloucester Boy Scout Troop 2010. Davis recognized Curtis and Andy for the excellent work they did to enhance mallard and wood duck habitat on the Dragon as part of their Eagle Scout project. John Langloh provided a special treat by serenading us with a few tunes on the bagpipes.

Thank you to Davis for preparing the BBQ and to everyone who provided their specialty side dish.

## 2015 PADDLE SEASON UPDATE

Teta Kain

Registration for the 2015 paddle season will open on Wednesday, March 1. The paddle season will start on Saturday, April 11 and run through Sunday, May 10. This is a slight departure from dates in the past because Easter Sunday falls on April 5 and we find it best not to book on that holiday weekend. We can accommodate a maximum of 12 participants each day. All participants must be at least 18 years of age. More information about the trips can be found on our website [www.dragonrun.org](http://www.dragonrun.org).

Several crew members who have helped with the paddle trips in past seasons are unable to participate this year so we are looking for volunteers to fill empty spaces. We schedule five crew members each of the 30 days of the season. The schedule is geared around each person's preferences as to how many and which days he or she prefers to work. Crew members must be members of Friends of Dragon Run and must be 18-years or older. Contact Teta Kain at - [tkdragonrun7@gmail.com](mailto:tkdragonrun7@gmail.com) or 804-693-5246 at any time for more information or to sign up as a volunteer..

We plan to set up a sales table at the Mascot landing again this year with T-shirts and other items available for purchase at the end of each trip. Anyone interested in helping out with this project is asked to contact our sales manager Darbie Maccubbin at - [darbiemaccubbin@hotmail.com](mailto:darbiemaccubbin@hotmail.com)

## PROTHONOTARY WARBLERS

Adrienne Frank



Prothonotary Warbler House with Fledglings

The Prothonotary Warbler makes its summer home and bears young next to the Dragon Run. The almost all yellow warbler likes nesting in cavities or in man-made boxes perched on poles over the water.

This summer, Gary Driscoll monitored 20 Prothonotary Warbler boxes along the Dragon Run, on Friends of Dragon Run property in King & Queen County. Some of the boxes could be monitored by wading in the river and other boxes required access by boat.

For the first time this year, there were fledglings (3) in boxes at Mascot Bridge on Route 603. At the Big Island property there were 11 boxes and the Herrin Property there were 2 boxes. These numbers similar to last year.

Gary recorded evidence of nesting material, eggs, babies, and empty nests and reported his findings to Bob Reilly at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Total fledglings - 46 Prothonotary Warblers and 43 Chickadees.

## AMAZING RAISE RESULTS

David Henderson

A very warm THANK YOU to all who made the Amazing Raise a resounding success this year!

The Amazing Raise received nearly \$2 million in donations to local Richmond area non-profit organizations. Thanks to your generosity, FODR received over \$1,100 in donations.

Just a reminder, donations made through the Amazing Raise cannot be considered for your annual membership to FODR because of tax implications. Amazing Raise donations are over and above your normal dues.

We thank you all for your extremely kind generosity and we look forward to another successful Amazing Raise in 2015.

FODR members can help stop global warming, reduce the carbon footprint, save energy and reduce solid waste by using your PC mouse. When members choose to receive the *Dragon's Tale* electronically, they can reduce paper waste, printing costs and mailing costs for FODR. Those saved funds can be redirected toward our primary mission of the preservation, protection and encouragement of wise use of the Dragon Run and its watershed. Please send an email to [sdbober@yahoo.com](mailto:sdbober@yahoo.com) stating that would like to receive future issues electronically.



FODR Fall Work Party

## SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING RECAP

Bruce Pully

The topic of our September 17 General Meeting was Making Sense of Migration. It was presented by Bill Williams who was a teacher in the Williamsburg-James City County School system and an adjunct professor at William & Mary. He was a leader in the Williamsburg Bird Club, the Williamsburg Land Conservancy, the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory and Virginia Ornithological Society. He has published several books related to birds and habitats and has conducted educational workshops at the national, state and local levels.

Bill defined migration as a worldwide regular and seasonal movement of animal species from place to place and back. His slides showed migration routes across the United States of several bird species and Monarch butterflies. He talked about the movement of shad up to our local rivers from the Canadian Maritimes, and how eagles and other wildlife depend on fish migration.

The longest migration of any migrating bird is the Arctic Tern that flies in a zig-zag course from pole to pole. Some shore birds travel from our Mid-Atlantic coast, to the Caribbean, and then to the North Pole. One shore bird, a Whimbrel named "Hope", has recorded over 75,000 miles of flight since being tagged in 2009.

Bill explained how birds use the angle of the sun on the horizon, the Earth's magnetic poles, and even the stars to guide their flight. He talked about night migrations and the hazards of electric lights and wind turbines. Lastly, he talked about how climate change and coastal development affect migrations.

## Successful Workdays Mark Visits to Big Island Property

Davis Rhodes

Successful workdays at the Big Island tracts in September and October produced much needed improvements in the Big Island entrance road access and Big Island Trail usability.

On September 13<sup>th</sup>, six regular workday participants trimmed the Big Island entrance road to make passage from the Gate to the Big Island Landing easier and more attractive to members and visitors. Tom Gregory and John Jensen, our Property Management gurus, welcomed regulars, Bruce Pully, Jed Dolan, Stan Thornton, and Davis Rhodes to the "tree-trimming" party, which produced a pile of limbs and a few, "Are we done yet?" looks from some of the participants. Each year, we need to trim the roadway to prevent the growth of limbs from clogging the path that vehicles must travel to reach the landing. 2014 was a banner year for growth on the roadway, and opening up the road improved accessibility for all.

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, John Jensen and his team composed of Stacy Norris, Teta Kain, Cynthia Honablue, Kearfott Stone, Lynn Kinard, Jed Dolan, Jim Pettyjohn, Bruce Pully, Stan Thornton, and Davis Rhodes cleared downed trees and limbs from the Loop Trail on Big Island, and prepared the way for a much-needed re-marking of the walking trail there. It has been a number of years since the trails have been used regularly, and quite a number of trees and limbs had fallen across the path. The painted blaze marks on key trees along the trail had faded significantly also, and need to be refreshed, so plans were made to re-visit the Island at a later date to brighten them for easier spotting by users of the trails. The day was "perfect" for an outing on Big Island and everyone enjoyed the early fall colors and the bright sunshine as they revisited the "Special Island" in the middle of the swamp enjoying bag lunches after the work was completed.

## BAY SUBAQUATIC VEGETATION (SAV) INCREASES

Adrienne Frank

The increase of underwater grasses in the Chesapeake Bay may be an indication of better overall health of the Bay (Virginia Institute of Marine Science, April 2014). Bay grasses clean the water, reduce erosion and provide places for fish and crabs to spawn their young. Grasses are critical to water quality and a good measure of the Bay's condition.

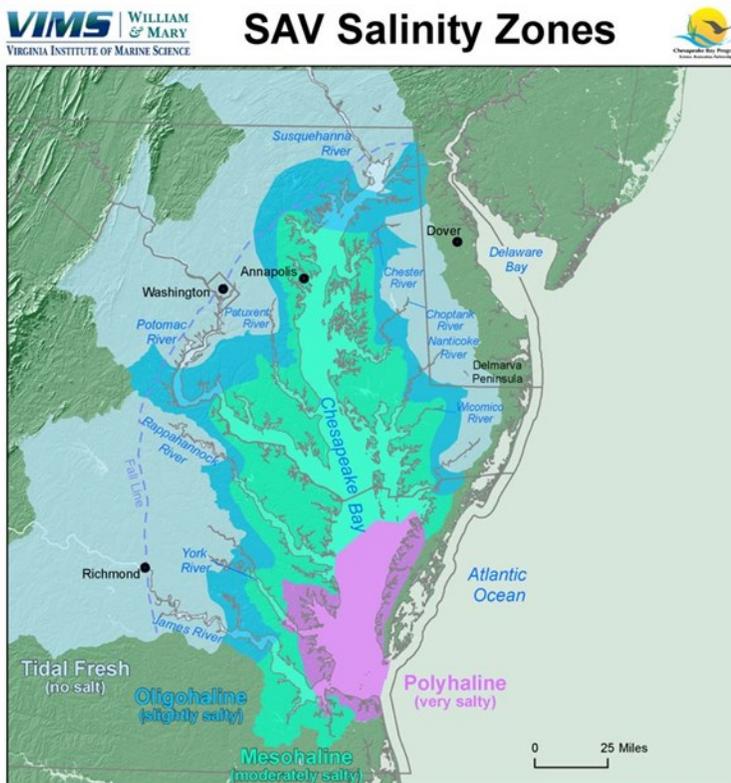
VIMS began recording data about sea grasses in 1978 and joined a federal-state partnership in 1983 to monitor and restore bay habitat. In the last 2 years, there has been a significant effort to monitor sea grasses and define their habitat related to salinity of the water in which they live. This year, aerial surveys indicate that Widgeon grasses in salty waters of the mid-bay has had a big increase and Eelgrass in shallow salty water has had a modest increase in acreage.

The goal is to increase the amount of grass to 185,000 acres. The acreage has increased from approximately 39,000 in 1985 to 90,000 by 2002. From year to year there are wide fluctuations due to environmental changes. For each of the four salinity areas, here are some encouraging statistics:

- **Tidal Fresh Salinity Zone** (no salt) has ranged from a low of 6,900 acres (1995) to a high of 25,481 acres (2008) averaging 12,399 acres.
- **Oligohaline Salinity Zone** (slightly salty) has ranged from a low of 653 acres (1984) to a high of 13,918 (2005) acres, averaging 6,680 acres.
- **Mesohaline Salinity Zone** (moderately salty) has ranged from a low of 15,636 acres (1984) to a high of 48,443 (2005), averaging 27,851 acres.
- **Polyhaline Salinity Zone** (very salty) has ranged from a low of 9,959 acres (2006) to a high of 24,015 (1993), averaging 17,887 acres.

For additional information, go to -

[http://www.vims.edu/newsandevents/topstories/sav\\_2013\\_report.php](http://www.vims.edu/newsandevents/topstories/sav_2013_report.php)



Seasons of the Dragon



**MESSAGING COMMITTEE FORMED**

FODR President, Davis Rhodes, has announced the formation of a Messaging Committee to help coordinate FODR’s communications to its membership and to the public. Davis announced the formation of this committee at a recent Business Meeting and asked Vice-President, Bruce Pully to chair the effort to make sure FODR sends consistent and timely news and information to its target audiences.

Committee members, Becky Day, Mitch Bober, and Susan Bober have performed with distinction in getting out the word for us in the past. But until now, we had no coordination between these areas to ensure that these key people had the same information to disseminate with the same timing and content. With the formation of this committee, we can now be sure that all parties have the same information with which to work.

Christine Tombleson, our new Facebook Champion will join the committee and begin the process of incorporating our Facebook messaging with the others. The Messaging Committee will meet as required to advise the Board of Directors and to recommend communications policies and procedures to maintain the high quality of information passed via each of our media areas.

**NEW FACEBOOK CHAMPION**

Director Christine Tombleson has been named as Champion for FODR’s Facebook participation. FODR has had a Facebook presence for some time thanks to the foresight of our Webmaster, Mitchell Bober, who locked in our name position.

Until now, however, we have not had someone to actively manage our participation. Christine brings a wealth of experience in web activities to the table for FODR. Since she is an active Facebook participant, she readily agreed to champion the effort.

FODR will now have the expertise to advance its position through Facebook, with someone who can provide answers to questions posed on the media site and pass along comments or suggestions to the persons within our organization who can best address them. If you are a Facebook participant, please visit us there at **Friends of Dragon Run** and offer an idea or suggestion.

**SNAKEHEAD UPDATE**

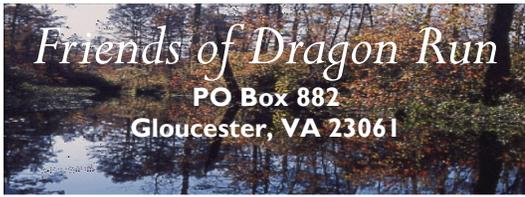
Just days after the last issue of *Dragon’s Tale* was published, FODR received a report that Fisherman Blake Vail caught a snakehead in the Dragon Run. Has anyone else had a similar experience? Please contact Susan Bober at [sdbober@yahoo.com](mailto:sdbober@yahoo.com) with any information you would like to share.

**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

**Messaging Committee**

Bruce Pully	Chairman	bjpully@verizon.net
Becky Day	Public Relations	Rebeccaday@aol.com
Mitchell Bober	Webmaster	mitchell.bober@yahoo.com
Christine Tombleson	Facebook Champion	Christine@vims.edu
Susan Bober	Newsletter Editor	sdbober@yahoo.com



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

## ***FODR Activities for 2013***



### **November**

2 Oyster Festival  
**12 Annual Meeting**, Gloucester  
Library\*\*  
15 Highway Trash Pickup  
**28 Thanksgiving**

### **December**

2 Annual Planning Meeting, Saluda  
MPPDC

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