

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

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FEBRUARY 26 GENERAL MEETING

Inside this issue:

Restoring Forested Wetlands with Herman (Wes) Hudson



Between 1780 and 1980, Virginia lost approximately 42% of the estimated 1,849,000 acres of wetlands, most of which were forested wetlands. The destruction or conversion of these ecosystems has led to the loss of the important functions and services of this unique habitat. Although there have been numerous restoration and creation projects to preserve wetlands, many have not been ecologically successful. One of the major challenges associated with forested wetland restoration has been establishment of wetland trees.

A 7-year-long research effort by guest speaker Wes Hudson investigates how to increase the probability of successful forested wetland restoration through establishment of trees by measuring the differences in survival, morphology, and growth of seven native wetland trees in a large scale, hydraulically controlled field experiment.

In 2009, a total of 2,772 trees were planted on the Virginia Department of Forestry lands in New Kent County. From 2009 through 2014 Hudson, with help from citizen volunteers, has conducted a 7-year study of survival counts and morphometric measurements three times each year. Hudson's presentation outlines the procedures of this colossal effort and will share his experiences and the results of this long term study to provide a unique perspective into the science of wetland restoration. It is his hope that the business sector and home owners alike will benefit from the findings of his research.

This program is open to the public and 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 Thursday, 26 February. Doors open at 7 PM and the program will start at 7:30 PM. Refreshments will be served before, during and after the presentation.



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**ROADSIDE TRASH
PICKUP IS
SATURDAY, FEB 28
AT 9 AM**

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

Looking Ahead...

Bruce Pully

Happy New Year!

Friends of Dragon Run has entered into a new year. What will our organization face in 2015? We have our usual events scheduled. Trash pickups, property work, general meetings and, of course, our highly informative and hugely popular paddle trips. We are planning to attend several of the local festival type events this year to educate the public about our organization and the Dragon Run.

It's not too late to make resolutions and I would urge you all to resolve to participate in one or more of our activities. Come on out!

Oh, I forgot. You may have noticed this column is not authored by Davis Rhodes. Davis has decided to step down as president this year and I, Bruce Pully, have been elected to attempt to fill his shoes. We should all extend our gratitude to Davis for his many years of dedication and hard work to the organization. He will continue on as a director and still support and work for the good of our organization. Thank you again Davis!

As for myself, I live in Gloucester, married to Joyce and have a daughter. I am retired from Anheuser-Busch and since that wonderful day have lived for the outdoors. Running, swimming, biking and extensive backpacking have filled my time. I joined the Friends of Dragon Run in order to give back to the environment and who could say no to Teta. I appreciate your support and encourage your feedback.

I call attention to our General Meeting on Thursday, February 26th at the Gloucester Public Library, Main Branch at 7:30 PM. Doors will open at 7:00 PM for social time and light refreshments. As usual Teta Kain has arranged an informative speaker. On Saturday, February 28th at 9:00 AM there will be a highway litter pickup. One can see a couple of resolutions filled here.

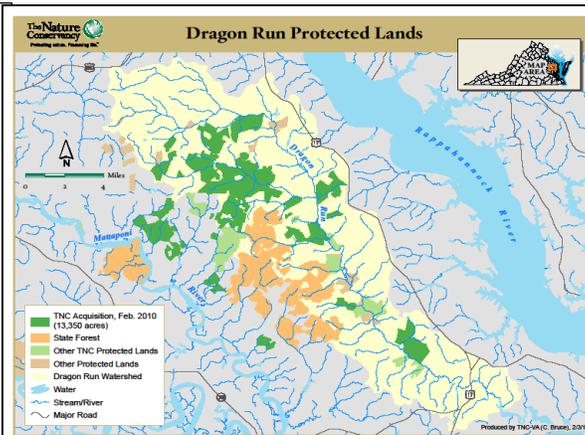
Everyone be safe, be good and come join us throughout the year.

Bruce Pully

Did you know that Dragon Run State Forest is the third largest state forest in Virginia with 9,563 acres?

To learn more about Dragon Run State Forest, go to <http://www.dof.virginia.gov/stateforest/list/dragon-run.htm>

Ever Save a Dragon?



When FODR members choose to **receive the *Dragon's Tale* electronically**, they reduce paper waste, printing costs and mailing costs. Those saved funds are redirected toward our primary mission of the preservation, protection and encouragement of the wise use of the Dragon Run and it's watershed. Contact sdbober@yahoo.com to receive your copy electronically.

THE 2015 PADDLE SEASON

Teta Kain

Please note that the 2015 paddle season schedule differs slightly from previous years. Instead of starting on the first weekend of April, we will start on the second Saturday, April 11. That avoids the difficulty of scheduling around Easter Sunday and it allows us to skip that first week in April which is often punctuated by unpleasant weather and very cold water. Also, the river is not always at its best that early in the season.

Reservations for the trips will open on Sunday, March 1. To register contact our booking agent Martha Graham by emailing her at mgr8040@verizon.net or by phone (757) 898-8040. **E-mail registration is much preferred.** It is wise to book early to get the day and number of spaces you prefer. At the time you register, Martha will send you an informational email which tells you when and where to meet and other helpful details. Names and contact information (e-mail or phone) of all members in your party are required before their reservations can be confirmed. An extensive write-up about the paddle trips, how to prepare for them and what to expect can be found on our website www.dragonrun.org.

We do not charge for the paddle trips which includes the use of our kayaks, equipment and services provided by our crew members. You do not have to make a donation to make the trip but we hope you will since these trips are our major fund raiser for the conservation of the Dragon. A suggested amount is \$40.00 per person. Checks should be made out to "Friends of Dragon Run" or "FODR." Donations will be accepted on the day of your trip. Someone will be at the meeting point to accept your cash or check donation. Please DO NOT send us your donation in advance.

Again this year, we plan to have a sales table set up at Mascot which is the point where we end the trips. We expect to have T-shirts and other items for sale. In addition, we are always in need of volunteers to help with setting up and manning the tables. So if you are interested in helping out with this project contact Teta at tkdragonrun7@gmail.com for more information.

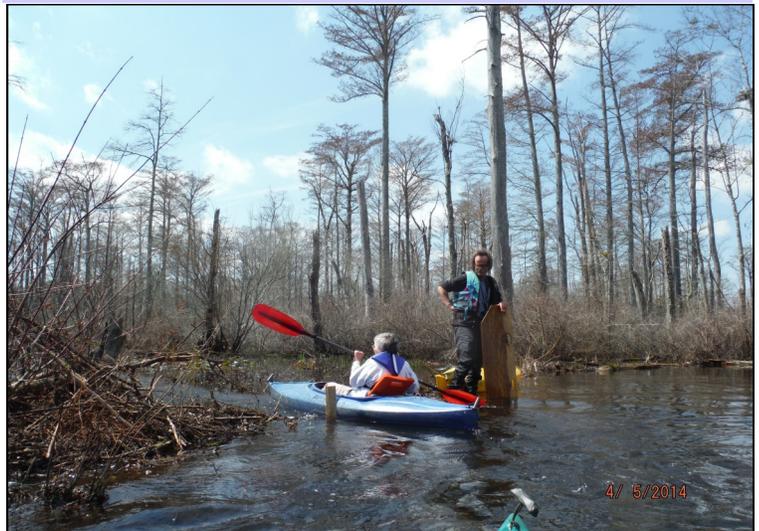
Last, if you are interested in being part of the paddle crew, **contact Teta no later than Sunday, March 1** so that you can be included in the schedule. Crew members are asked to indicate how many days they wish to work and specify dates they will not be available. We work out a schedule so that you will know your work days in advance.

Welcome New Webmaster Debbie Rollins

Debbie Rollins is the new Webmaster of the Friends of Dragon Run website. Debbie is a retired computer teacher from Virginia Beach Public Schools. She currently works part-time for WHRO and owns a fitness center in Matthews called Fitness for Women. Debbie and her husband Dave now live in Matthews.

In her spare time, she likes to garden (she is a Master Gardener) and loves outdoor sports. Debbie has paddled the Dragon Run twice with her LIPPS Kayaking Group and looks forward to getting to know the Friends of Dragon Run.

Looking Forward to Paddle Season



OFFICERS & DIRECTORS ASSUME THEIR 2015 ROLES

As a result of elections held at the Annual Meeting on November 12th, several new faces took their positions in the leadership of Friends of Dragon Run on January 1st.

Vice President Bruce Pully was elected as our President for 2015. Bruce has immersed himself in our organization's activities. He has emerged as a most capable leader who has learned about us and has made many contributions to our organizational effectiveness. We are expecting great things from Bruce this year.

Anne Ducey-Ortiz relieved Bruce as Vice President and resumes her active participation with us after several years absence. She served ably as our Secretary in the past and we are pleased to have her back. We know that Anne's experience and knowledge of Friends will put us in a good position for the future.

Davis Rhodes moved into the Immediate Past President's role where he will offer us a wealth of experience and knowledge accumulated over our thirty-year history.

Directors reelected this year include Robert Gibson, John Jensen, Teta Kain, and David Milby. Each of these folks brings a unique talent and strong commitment to our organization. We look forward to great things from each of them as we move into the New Year. Robert has offered his knowledge and experience to us in many forms and is particularly valuable because of his life-long residence in the Dragon Run Watershed. John Jensen maintains his leadership role as a Director. He has assumed the additional duties of our Property Manager, relieving Tom Gregory who has retired after many years of loyal and effective leadership in that role. Teta Kain, who is known far and wide for her speaking prowess and her skills as our Paddlemaster, will remain in her leadership positions for 2015 as well. David Milby brings to us again a vast array of knowledge and experience in forestry and forest management. This is essential for the successful management of much of our 600 plus acres of property. We are pleased that all of these folks have signed on for another tour.

Two Directors, Christine Tombleson and Jon Lucy stood for election this past fall as they were interim appointees who filled out the terms of Directors who resigned for personal reasons. Both command considerable professional experience which has already benefitted us and we look forward to their many contributions again this year.

Two new faces elected this time include Janice Moore, a resident of Deltaville, and Curtis Hill, a resident of Gloucester. Both have participated actively in our Director Orientation program and we consider ourselves very lucky to have them join our leadership ranks.

Our Directors serve two-year terms, so several will continue in their leadership roles for another year. We are most fortunate to have Dr. Tex Cathey, Jed Dolan, Robert Hancock, Jim Pettyjohn, and Rachel Williams to provide us with continuity as we move forward into 2015.

As we step back and look at the diversity of talent and experience this group of leaders brings to our organization, we feel confident in our knowledge that they will keep us moving toward our goals and objectives. We look forward to 2015 and the future with much optimism and confidence and we encourage our members to join us in a rich variety of activities.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Boone Ferebee

Brent Goo

Shirley Merrell

2014 FODR Annual Meeting Presentation

Bruce Pully

At the 2014 FODR Annual Meeting, Harvey Morgan was invited to talk about the founding members of FODR including his brother, Jimmy Morgan. Harvey spoke fondly of his brother Jimmy and the other founding members of Friends of Dragon Run. He told stories about how Jimmy brought people together with his enthusiasm and persistence. For example, Jimmy invested tremendous time into the paths and signs on Big Island. He stamped aluminum strips with common and botanical names and installed posts for them to identify dozens of trees on the Big Island trail. He also cut dragon head signs from plywood and painted them yellow and attached them to trees along the stream to mark the water trail. He used arrowhead directional signs to mark sudden changes in the direction of the "channel" and tepee shaped markers to indicate potential campsites.

Harvey described how the Explorer Scouts routinely did river clean ups and acknowledged several previous scouts in the audience. He introduced several of the founding members present and asked them to speak. George Zahn shared some of his memories about meetings and paddle trips and how minor mishaps brought laughter and bonding to the group. Tex Cathey told of his search for a large stone to be engraved with a phrase penned by Mary Hyde Berg to commemorate Jimmy Morgan. The 350 lb. stone was carried on a cradle across 2 canoes to move it across the Dragon Stream to Big Island. On commemoration day, a temporary bridge was built to bring Jimmy and Harvey's mother across in her wheel chair.

Harvey invited the audience to tell stories and make comments. Here are some of the stories:

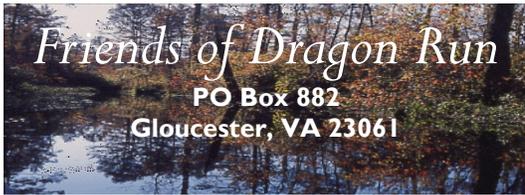
- At least 2 groups of people paddled and then crawled their way through the swamp to reach the largest cypress tree (23 feet in circumference) for photos holding hands around the base.
- Six or more people admitted that they overturned boats or fell in during high water.
- Several people described how they got lost when taking a wrong turn while paddling, especially on the stretch of river between Route 602 and 603.
- One or 2 of the recollections were historical, remembering the old stories about escaped slaves, ghosts, and going lost never to return again.
- Childhood memories were of "dragon fur" falling from the cypress trees, fishing, camping, and big adventures.

Important Contacts

Bruce Pully	President	(804) 642-5243	bjpully@verizon.net
Anne Ducey-Ortiz	Vice President	(804) 725-1259	aduceyortiz@earthlink.net
Cynthia Honablue	Secretary	(718) 496-6149	chonablue5000@aol.com
Adrienne Frank	Treasurer	(757) 566-4009	adrienne-gary@cox.net
S. Davis Rhodes	Immediate Past President	(757) 484-9522	s.d.rhodes@verizon.net
John Jensen	Property Manager	(804) 769-1565	hopesdadjohn@aol.com
Teta Kain	Paddlemaster	(804) 693-5246	tkdragonrun7@gmail.com

Committee Chairs

Amazing Raise	David Henderson	davidh1930@aol.com
Facebook Manager	Christine Tombleson	christine@vims.edu
Hospitality	Cynthia Honablue	chonablue5000@aol.com
Membership	Wanda Eberle	wheberle@wildblue.net
Messaging Committee	Bruce Pully	bjpully@verizon.net
Newsletter Editor	Susan Bober	sdbober@yahoo.com
Property Manager	John Jensen	hopesdadjohn@aol.com
Publicity	Becky Day	rebeccaday@aol.com
Roadside Trash Pickup	Hugh Markham	hmarkham@crosslink.net
Webmaster	Debbie Rollins	debcrollins@gmail.com



www.dragonrun.org



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

FODR Activities for 2015



February

7 Property Workday
16 Business Meeting
26 General Meeting*
28 Highway Trash Pickup

March

1 Paddle Trip Registration Opens
14 Property Workday
23 Business Meeting

April

2-3 Paddle Route Cleanup
11 Paddle Season Begins
15 Newsletter Deadline
27 Business Meeting

May

10 Paddle Season Ends
13 General Meeting*
16 Highway Trash Pickup
18 Business Meeting
23 Kayak Cleanup

June 6 MPRA Cleanup

July No Activities Scheduled

August

19 Newsletter Deadline
24 Business Meeting

September

16 General Meeting*
19 Highway Trash Pickup
26 Fall Picnic
28 Business Meeting

October

21 Newsletter Deadline
26 Business Meeting

November

18 Annual Meeting
21 Highway Trash Pickup
23 Business Meeting

December

7 Annual Planning Meeting

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