



The Dragon's Tale

Friends of Dragon Run
P. O. Box 882
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 Dragon Run and its watershed.

Sam Droege to Talk About Bees at the September FODR General Meeting

(Don't forget, this will be a virtual meeting using Zoom—see related article on page 2.)



Sam Droege, with the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, will be our guest speaker for the FODR September general meeting. He will talk about native bees and their importance in keeping our natural areas diverse.

Sam grew up in Hyattsville, Maryland, received an undergraduate degree at the University of Maryland, and a Master's at the State University of New York—Syracuse. Most of his career has been spent at the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Sam has a long list of accomplishments including coordinating the North American Breeding Bird Survey Program, and developing the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program, the Bioblitz,

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Fall Paddle Season Scheduled for October

Our fall paddle season will begin Friday, October 16, 2020 and end Sunday, November 1, 2020. We will paddle October 16, 17 (two paddles), 18, 19, 20, 23, 24 (two paddles), 25, 26, 27, 30, 31 (two paddles), and November 1. Registration opens September 1 at 9 a.m. Go to DragonRun.org and click the Paddle Signup button. For detailed information, click the Paddle Trip Info button on the website.

As with our first-ever summer paddle, we will use the following COVID-19 guidelines:

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President's Message

Janice Moore

Still A Hopeful Year for FODR

Our first summer paddle season, held in July, was a success, thanks to our members and the many paddlers who wanted to kayak the Dragon. We are grateful for the hard work of our logistics and paddle crew members who sanitized all the equipment before and after each paddle. Guests often commented on the crew's teamwork, especially on the water as they pulled paddlers upstream through beaver dam gates and over underwater obstacles.



We are planning our fall paddle season which will take place during the last two weeks in October. Reservations will open at 9 am on September 1. For more information, check out the fall paddle season article on page 1.

You will hear more from us soon about the endowment fund that the FODR Board has designated to support land management. Your donation will help us raise another \$6,000 for the endowment challenge. And, watch your mailbox and inbox for the FODR annual report.

Mark September 23 on your calendar for our first virtual members meeting. This online meeting takes the place of our routine September members meeting. Join us online or by phone. Details about connecting are on this page. However, be sure to check our Facebook page in case we need to announce changes. Thanks to Sam Droege, from the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, who will be our guest speaker.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during the past months, and thank you for your support of Friends of Dragon Run.

Help Wanted for FODR Media Relations and Social Media

If you have talent and a desire to assist FODR in media relations and social media activities, please contact Janice Moore at President@DragonRun.org. We have established media contacts and our current public relations manager will help you with training.

Virtual General Meeting to Be Held September 23 at 7:00 p.m.

FODR is replacing the regular September general meeting with a virtual meeting to comply with COVID-19 guidelines. We will use Zoom, a web conferencing tool, which uses video and audio conferencing to bring people together online or by phone.

Once you've joined the meeting using your computer, you'll see thumbnail photos of all the participants including you. Zoom uses your computer's webcam to show your picture although you can choose not to display your picture.

How to Zoom

Our September general meeting will be held virtually using Zoom. To join using your computer, just click the link below and it will take you into the meeting. If you prefer to join by telephone, dial one of the numbers listed below. You will be prompted to enter the meeting ID and password listed below. The link will also be posted on DragonRun.org that evening.

Time: Sep 23, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82210140746?pwd=ZUpSUVA4dmJmTTBGRHZhejNSWUIGZz09)

[82210140746?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82210140746?pwd=ZUpSUVA4dmJmTTBGRHZhejNSWUIGZz09)

[pwd=ZUpSUVA4dmJmTTBGRHZhejNSWUIGZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82210140746?pwd=ZUpSUVA4dmJmTTBGRHZhejNSWUIGZz09)

Meeting ID: 822 1014 0746

Passcode: 315030

Dial by your location

- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Summer Paddle Season Success

Our summer paddle season marked several firsts for FODR. It was the first time we paddled the Dragon during the summer; the first time we used a round trip route which allowed paddlers to launch and take out where they parked their vehicles; the first time for offering paddle trips with only six guests; and the first time for using COVID-19 precautions.

We are grateful to everyone who made our debut summer paddle season a success. Our COVID-19 precautions went over well with the crew and guests. Everyone complied cheerfully with the mask and social distance requirements issued by Governor Northam.

We did not cancel any of our paddles due to the weather; but, we changed the start times so we could avoid the hottest part of the day. Our crew members arrived at 6:45 each morning to unload and sanitize the kayaks, life vests, paddles, and porta-potties. We were blessed with rain on days and nights between paddles, and we had enough water to paddle even though we added gates on two new beaver dams.

Even with a maximum of only six guests on each paddle and paddling only three long weekends, we introduced 64 guests to the magic of Dragon Run, many for the first time. We acquired several new FODR members and offered FODR merchandise to guests at the end of each paddle trip. Thanks to those sales and some very generous paddle donations, we raised almost \$4,800, which was a welcome addition to our treasury after having to cancel the 2019 fall and 2020 spring paddle seasons.

We owe a special debt of gratitude to Frank Herrin, whose property near Coldwater Road was the staging, launch, and take-out site. Frank is a long-time FODR member, former FODR President, and former FODR Board member. He generously offered his property for most of July allowing us to stage all kayaking activities, place two porta-potties, and store our kayak trailer and other equipment there. Thanks to Dave Rhodes, we had a spacious tent where we hung the life vests.

And, thanks to Bob Hancock whose property was the staging area for cleaning the kayaks and equipment at the end of the paddle season. Bob cheerfully provided power, water, and hoses for our power washers, as well as liquid refreshments for the crew members cleaning the boats and equipment so everything could be stored at Big Island until this fall.



Sam Droege to Talk About Bees at the September FODR General Meeting *(Continued from page 1)*

and FrogwatchUSA programs. He also works on the design and evaluation of monitoring programs.

Currently, his team is running an inventory and monitoring program for native bees. They are developing tools and techniques manuals along with online identification guides for North American bees at www.discoverlife.org. His team is reviving the North American Bird Phenology Program, and producing public domain hi-resolution photographs of bees, insects, and flowers @USGSBIML.

Fall Paddle Season Scheduled for October *(Continued from page 1)*

Masks required: Face coverings and social distancing for all crew and guests will be required at all times while on land and during launch and take-out.

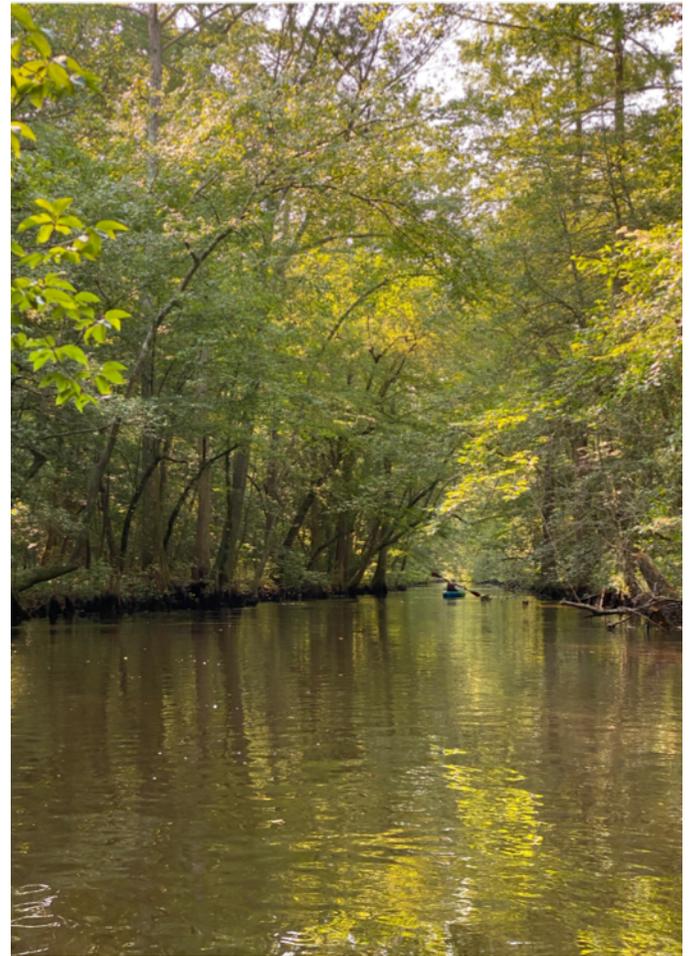
Limited group size: 6 guests maximum

Different route: We will use a round trip paddle course so we will not have to carpool guests and crew to where they left their cars. We will launch from the Mascot Bridge, paddle upstream for a short distance, then paddle downstream into the logging canal. From there, we will turn around and paddle back to the Mascot Bridge. This paddle will be more strenuous than previous routes.

Different start time: Guests will arrive at the Mascot launch/takeout by 8:30 a.m. For the second paddle on Saturdays, guests must arrive by 1:00 p.m.

Sanitizing equipment: Prior to each paddle, the kayaks, paddles and life vests will be sanitized. The porta-potties will be sprayed with a sanitizing solution.

Social distancing: To comply with social distancing requirements, guests will be asked to



The fall paddle will take guests into the old logging canal.

move between marked stations in staggered fashion to get fitted with vests, kayaks, and other equipment. On the water, the smaller group size and different route will allow us to avoid tight clusters, and we will pass through only a few gated beaver dams.

No radios: We will not use individual radios, headsets, or earpieces.

Short water and snack breaks but no lunch break: We won't stop for an extended lunch break, but we will take several short breaks to hydrate. Be sure to bring plenty of water and snacks.

New Membership Policy

FODR appreciates our members and we gained additional new members during and after our summer paddle season. Many of you gave much more than the minimum \$25, and our membership chair, Anne Ducey-Ortiz, asked the Board if we could update FODR's membership policy to better address the generosity of our members. At the August 17, 2020 FODR Board meeting, the Board voted to change the membership policy.

Membership starts at just \$25 and is good from January 1 until December 31. The previous membership policy stated that individuals joining in the middle of the year would pay a prorated membership fee of 50%. Individuals who joined during the last quarter of the year would pay the full membership fee which would cover the remainder of the current year and the following year.

Our new policy states that individuals who join during the second half of the year (after June 30) will pay the full membership fee but it will cover the remaining months of the current year and all of the following year.

FODR Endowment Fund Challenged to Grow

A few generous donors have challenged FODR to revive our stewardship endowment fund that was created several years ago. FODR owns more acreage now and the costs of protection have increased, principally due to increases in property taxes, insurance premiums, and other land management costs. The function of the endowment is to retain a significant amount of capital that will be invested to generate earnings that can be spent to defray these costs if FODR's revenue is inadequate to make these payments. Thus, we can secure the lasting protection of the pristine, natural beauty of Dragon Run.

In light of recent events that caused FODR to cancel our 2019 fall paddle season and the 2020 spring paddle season, the FODR Board decided to launch a fundraising campaign this fall to build the endowment. The donors have challenged FODR to raise \$10,000 for the endowment fund before

December 31, 2020. If that goal is met, they will donate \$6060 to the fund.

Be on the lookout for the FODR annual report which details our accomplishments and spells out future challenges. We hope you will support the stewardship endowment fund so that FODR can continue to provide land stewardship and continued community enjoyment of the Dragon in its pristine state.

Check out our impressive inventory of hats and shirts at DragonRun.org/shop. Play it safe and shop on our website from the comfort of your home.





Join us in October on one of our paddle trips. Trips will be offered October 16, 17 (two paddles), 18, 19, 20, 23, 24 (two paddles), 25, 26, 27, 30, 31 (two paddles), and November 1. Paddles begin at 8:30 a.m., and Saturday afternoon paddles begin at 1 p.m. Register at DragonRun.org.

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