

# 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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## MAY 22 GENERAL MEETING

### Storms, Satellites, and Shotguns: Migratory Connections and Perils for Shorebirds Along the Atlantic Flyway

At our next General Meeting, Mike Wilson will be discussing the shorebirds that concentrate in large numbers in coastal Virginia during migration. For some species, these stopover areas support the bulk of their arctic breeding populations. Over the past 20-30 years a large portion of shorebird populations migrating along the Atlantic Flyway have declined and are of high conservation concern. Recent advances in satellite telemetry have provided new insights into migration patterns and the perils they face while making these incredible journeys. Recently, a pair of Whimbrels being tracked using satellite were shot by hunters in the Caribbean. The fate of these birds has altered perspectives on the threat that hunting poses to their conservation.



Mike Wilson is a research biologist with the Center for Conservation Biology where he works on the ecology and conservation of birds across a wide variety of ecosystems such as forests and wetlands. Mike's career and research have been the conduits for his abiding interest in the ecology and conservation of biological communities and populations. Mike has directed research projects to develop an understanding of the social and biological factors that limit bird populations that, in turn, are used to produce management guidelines for declining species. He works across an array of ecosystems that support bird species dependent upon barrier islands, grasslands, forests, and marshes. Specific projects have included the impacts of silviculture on forest birds, patch size on grassland birds, and sea-level rise on marshbirds. Mike also coordinates the Nightjar Survey Network; a citizen-science project designed to gather national-level data on population trends of these species. Mike has a B.S. in Biology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and an M.A. in Biology, College of William and Mary. (Meeting details on page 8.)

### Inside this issue:

<i>Looking Ahead</i>	2
<i>Board of Directors Change</i>	2
<i>New Members</i>	2
<i>Paddle Season Update</i>	3
<i>Largest Trash Pickup</i>	4
<i>VSO Foray Plans</i>	4
<i>FODR T-Shirts</i>	5
<i>Middle Peninsula State Park Update</i>	5
<i>Ospreycam</i>	5
<i>Amazing Raise</i>	6
<i>The Dragon &amp; American History</i>	6
<i>February Meeting</i>	7
<i>Important Contacts</i>	7
<i>Change of Address?</i>	8
<i>2014 Calendar</i>	8

### Ever Save a Dragon?



### ROADSIDE TRASH PICKUP IS SATURDAY, MAY 24 AT 9 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)



Far left: Goodwin Hudsonian  
Left: Sanderling  
Right: Whimbrel



## Looking Ahead .....

By Davis Rhodes

Well, spring and the Paddle Season have finally arrived. The Dragon is coming alive with greenery and our paddle crews are busy shepherding our guests down the pristine waterway that we are so proud of. I must take a moment here to thank the more than two dozen folks who have pulled together in a wonderful team to make these paddle trips possible. Teta Kain, our indefatigable Paddlemaster, has put together a group this year that has risen to the task in a manner that makes us all proud of them and of our organization. From start to finish or might I say from scheduling to selling T-Shirts, our folks have been wonderful. The paddle crews have the kayak management thing down pat. Everyone has been working so very hard to make the experience as informative and pleasurable as possible for our guests. Kudos to all and a huge Thank You to each member of the team.

It seems appropriate at this time to invite FODR Members who have not yet made the trip to give consideration to visiting the Dragon next year. Seeing the Dragon Run come alive in the spring is a sight worth seeing, and one that will linger in the mind of any visitor for a long time. Unfortunately, by the time this issue of *The Dragon's Tale* goes to press and out to our subscribers, the season will be almost over. We'd love to have you participate next year though and we will once more sound the horn early in the season to give everyone a chance to sign up.

I would also like to thank our Board of Directors and our Committee Chairpersons for their commitment to making Friends of Dragon Run the best organization it can be. We are extremely fortunate to have a group of immensely talented and knowledgeable folks willing to give of their time and talent to guide us towards achieving our goals and missions. If you as a Member have not had the opportunity to visit with them at our General Meetings, please try to attend a meeting and get to know them better. I am certain you will be impressed by them as much as I am. Who knows, you might find a niche in our organization that is tailor made for your own talents and ambitions. We are always looking for folks to "lean on the wheel" with us in a spirit of doing the best we can for "The Dragon". For an all-volunteer organization, we can accomplish some amazing things, and I know many of you out there would enjoy the friendships and camaraderie that we enjoy at every activity. Why not give us a try?

As I close for this visit, I wish for all of you a healthy, pleasant and safe summer. I look forward to visiting with you again in September.. Thanks for your enduring support!

*Davis*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHANGE

Davis Rhodes regretfully announced the resignation of Board Member Bev Macy.

Jon Lucy has been appointed to replace Bev. A hearty welcome to Jon!

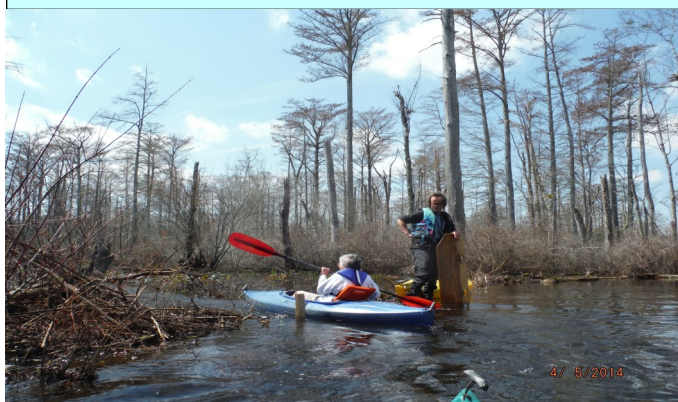
### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Stephen Foster

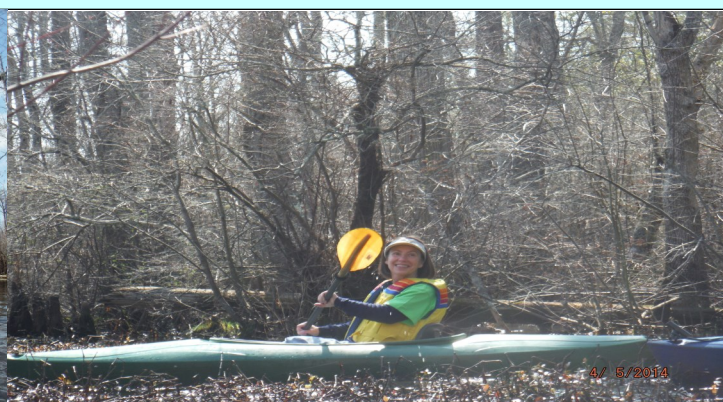
Wallace & Tina Millner



## PADDLE SEASON IS OFF TO A GREAT START



FODR Volunteers Teta Kain and Gary Driscoll



Happy Paddler Adrienne Frank

As of this writing, April 15, the 2014 paddle season is proceeding very nicely. We have missed only two days when the weather was bad. Those days came just at the right moment because water levels were dropping dramatically and the rains helped raise the water level.

To date, we have escorted almost 90 people down the river and most days the weather has been very kind to us. The vegetation is slowly emerging - much earlier than last year's very slow start - and we are beginning to see spatterdock blooms appearing and needles bursting forth on the bald cypress trees.

As always, the Yellow-throated Warblers were the first migrants to arrive. Those beautiful little Prothonotary Warblers arrived about four days ago and are already investigating the nesting boxes Gary Driscoll has erected on various sections of the river. We are also have seen and heard many White-eyed Vireos, Common Yellowthroats, Red-winged Blackbirds and Ovenbirds all along the waterway.

The big news is the return of the Bald Eagles! Last year half of the nest which they had used every year since 2002 blew down. We occasionally saw them in the area but they made no attempt to rebuild the nest. We were afraid they were gone forever. But this year, there they were with the nest repaired and both birds busy with nesting activities. She was on the nest and he was standing guard in the nearby trees or bringing food. We will be watching closely in the days to come for a glimpse of the young.

Our crew members did a great deal of clearing on the river in preparation for the trips. Surprisingly, in spite of the severe winter, there were almost no new blow-downs that obstructed the route. A lot of tricky places that gave us trouble last year were cleared out and a lot of brush overhanging the channel was cleared back. Consequently, the trips have been much easier this year, especially for inexperienced paddlers.

*Teta Kain*



A first sign of Spring—a lovely patch of Bloodroot



Photo courtesy of Leslye Miller

Spring on the Dragon





## WOW! LARGEST TRASH PICKUP EVER!



Saturday morning, March 1st, Chesapeake Bay Governor's School students joined members of Friends of Dragon Run cleaning up the road sides along Route 17 and Routes 602 and 603 in Middlesex and King and Queen Counties where the highways cross over the Dragon. Hugh Markham reported that this was the largest crowd and one of the best pickups ever. Pictured at the Mascot site: Joyce Pully, Bruce Pully, Teta Kain, Jed Dolan, Kaylee Salmon (Gloucester), Tyler Kelley (King and Queen), Jim Pettyjohn, Sam Jasinski (Mathews), Josiah Schlosser (New Kent), Kearfott Stone, Hugh Markham, Robin Markham, James Giffin (New Kent) and Charles Crook. Not pictured: Sherry Pettyjohn, Photographer. See page one for information on the next trash pickup event.

*Sherry Pettyjohn*



## VSO FORAY PLANS

Response from FODR members to help with the planned nesting bird foray conducted by the Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO) June 7 through 15 has been rewarding. We have volunteers to accompany foray participants on five of our FODR tracts and property monitors have agreed to prepare the trails for easy access to good nesting areas.

Almost all the property on Dragon Run is privately owned and lined with deep swamps which makes it exceedingly difficult to reach the shoreline, a habitat surveyors are anxious to census. VSO organizers of the event are especially pleased that we will provide access. and assistance as our lands are about the only way they can survey birding activity along the river.

A report of foray results will be made available to us at the conclusion of the event.

## FRIENDS OF DRAGON RUN T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

FODR T-shirts are now for sale. They come in 2 colors, lime green or gray. There is a 5 color FODR logo on the front of each shirt and a line drawing of a Cypress tree on the back. Shirts are available in sizes Small (S), Medium (M), Large (L), Extra-Large (XL) and Extra, Extra-Large (XXL). Price of the shirts is \$20 each. That price includes shipping. See photos below.

To order your shirt(s) include:

- Number of shirts ordered
- Size of each shirt
- Color of each shirt

Send a check, payable to Friends of Dragon Run or FODR with the order information to:

Friends of Dragon Run  
% J. Haury  
PO Box 682  
White Marsh, VA 23183



## UPDATE MIDDLE PENINSULA STATE PARK

President Davis Rhodes reported to the Board at the Business Meeting on February 24, 2014 that the state park near Rosewell (Middle Peninsula State Park) did not receive state funding. The question was asked about what should we as conservationists endorse. Discussion will continue.

## OSPREYCAM

Do you know about the "Ospreycam" at VIMS (Virginia Institute of Marine Science). Watch the ospreys live during their annual nesting and breeding season. The nesting platform is located in front of the VIMS Campus on the York River in Gloucester Point, Virginia. In the Southern Chesapeake Bay area nesting and breeding usually begins in late March and lasts through late July. Go to— <http://www.vims.edu/bayinfo/ospreycam/index.php>



## Amazing Raise Web Site Updated

**GiveRichmond.org, host of the Amazing Raise, just updated its website!**

One of the main enhancements is an improved "Search" capability. It is now easy to find "Friends of Dragon Run" by entering any of the words in our name in the "Name" field of the search engine or by entering "FODR" in the "Keyword" field of the search template. Of course, the more refined your search, the more accurate the results will be. Once the Friends of Dragon Run summary is presented, there are easy links to take you to our complete profile, our website or the donation form.

While we hope Friends of Dragon Run is the main reason you go to the GiveRichmond.org website, this new search capability also enables you to find all of the published non-profit portraits on the site in a comprehensive alphabetical listing. This listing can be further segmented by region, so you can view all of the non-profit organizations in your area that you are interested in with one click of your mouse!

Other useful features of the new site are found on the "LEARN" tab and include:

- An archive of "Giving Smart" blog posts;
- A page on the Amazing Raise –September 17 & 18, 2014;
- A "Featured Initiatives" page that highlights organizations and collaborations that are positively impacting our community; and
- A "News and Events" page about GiveRichmond and other local philanthropy.

GiveRichmond ([www.GiveRichmond.org](http://www.GiveRichmond.org) or [www.GiveGloucester.org](http://www.GiveGloucester.org)) is a powerful tool for philanthropy and community engagement. The website allows FODR to receive credit card donations, and it allows our friends to support multiple non-profit organizations of their choice in one place with one receipt, greatly simplifying your record keeping for tax purposes.

We hope you will remember FODR when you are exercising your local charitable giving.

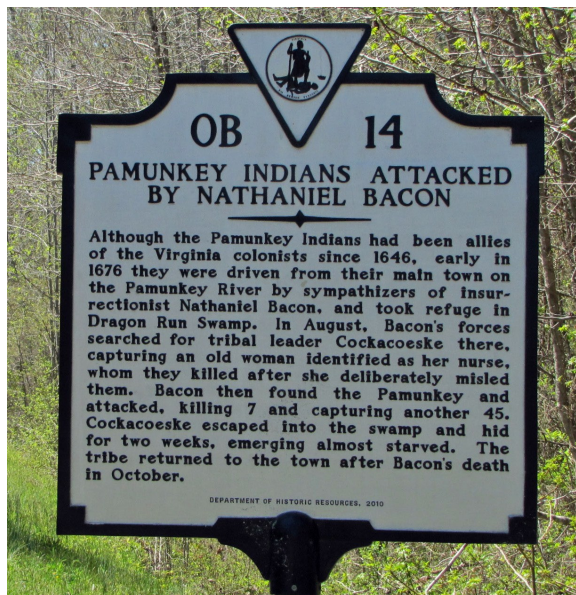
*David Henderson*

### Dragon Run and American History

Did you know that the Dragon Run played a part in American history on several occasions.? During Bacon's Rebellion in 1676, the Pamunkey Indians took refuge in the Dragon after being driven from their main town. The highway marker (right) commemorates this event.

The marker is located on Farley Park Road (Rt. 603) in King and Queen County across the bridge from where FODR paddle trips end.

The GPS coordinates are 37.633589, -76.696334.



## General Meeting of Friends of Dragon Run, February 26, 2014

President Davis Rhodes opened the meeting and after taking care of General business Teta Kain introduced the night's guest speaker.

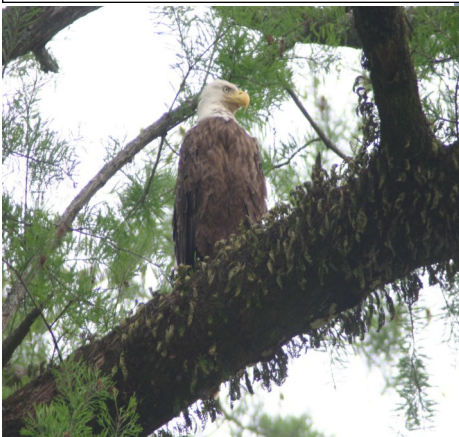
Attendees at the meeting were then transported from the Dragon Run to out of this universe. The presentation of guest speaker Mark Adams took us into the realm of radio astronomy. Mark is a professional astronomer with the National Radio Observatory (NRAO) headquartered in Charlottesville, Virginia. He has extensive experience in the defense industry, astronomy, and has even written a book on birding.

Various radio telescopes in West Virginia, New Mexico, Hawaii, and even the highest, located in the Atacama Desert in Chile at 16,500 feet were discussed. Discussion was supplemented with spectacular photos. These telescopes collect radio waves, not light, from pulsars, emissions from stars and galaxies, and even radio waves from complex molecules that could be the precursors of life. With present knowledge and theory Mark was able to explain Black Holes in lay terminology.

If you were unfortunate enough to miss this very interesting presentation and insightful Question and Answer session afterwards you can visit the NRAO website at: [public.nrao.edu](http://public.nrao.edu).

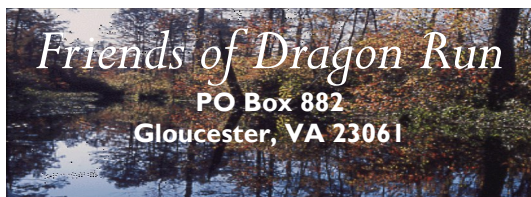
Thank you Mark Adams for a wonderful presentation. For those that missed the General Meeting the next presentation will be May 22 at the Gloucester Main Library. Come join us for socializing, refreshments and an interesting and informative presentation at 7:00 pm.

*Bruce Pully*



### Important Contacts

S. Davis Rhodes	President	(757) 484-9522	s.d.rhodes@verizon.net
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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



[www.dragonrun.org](http://www.dragonrun.org)



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

## ***FODR Activities for 2014***



### **April**

**5 Paddle Season Begins**  
**5-6 Daffodil Festival**  
16 Newsletter Deadline  
28 Business Meeting, Saluda MPPDC

### **May**

**4 Paddle Season Ends**  
10 Kayak Cleanup  
**22 General Meeting\***, Gloucester Lib  
24 Highway Trash Pickup

### **June**

7-15 VSO Foray

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

### **August**

25 Business Meeting, Saluda MPPDC  
20 Newsletter Deadline

### **September**

**5-6 Market Days**  
**17 General Meeting\***, Gloucester Lib.  
20 Highway Trash Pickup  
22 Business Meeting, Saluda MPPDC  
**27 Fall Picnic**

Meetings are held at 7:00 PM in the Community Room of the Gloucester County Main Library located in the Main Street Shopping Center on Business Route 17 at the southern edge of Gloucester Court House.

### **October**

**4-5 Crab Carnival**  
15 Newsletter Deadline  
27 Business Meeting, Saluda MPPDC

### **November**

**7-8 Oyster Festival**  
**12 Annual Meeting**, Loc. TBD\*\*  
**15 Highway Trash Pickup**  
**27 Thanksgiving**

### **December**

1 Annual Planning Meeting, Saluda MPPDC

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