



Friends of Dragon Run
PO Box 882, Gloucester, VA 23061

The PRE-CIRCLE TRAIL GUIDE

The Pre-Circle Trail (Trail), as we will call it for now, is an easy, dry in most places, forested, one-way trail/road located on FODR's Revere Tract property near Mascot, VA off Rt. 610 (Dabney/Piedmont Rd.). The Trail begins at the Entrance Gate to FODR's property and continues to the Picnic-Circle area where FODR holds its Annual Picnic in October. Parking is available on the left in a grassy area along the gravel road just before the Entrance Gate (actually, between two gates).

About $\frac{3}{4}$ mile long, or more, the Pre-Circle Trail has a clearly-defined footpath/roadbed and consists of two sections, Sections A and B, of more or less equal length.

Section A begins at the Entrance Gate and gradually slopes downward towards the Dragon through a low, relatively-young forest that, generally, does not form a full canopy overhead. As such, it is open to much sunlight, and a large variety of trees, shrubs, vines, and ferns grow along its edges. Section A passes through two large, open, grassy areas, often used for FODR-event parking, then begins a final descent to a low, often-wet area that more or less continues the rest of the way to the Dragon. Soon after reaching that low ground, the Trail is crossed by the roadbed/footpath of another wide trail. That crossing marks the point where Section A ends and Section B begins.

Section B ends at the Picnic-Circle on the Dragon. It is a winding, level, low, mostly-dry (except, maybe, after heavy rains) trail that passes through a relatively-old forest. As such, it has a distinct canopy of trees overhead that generally blocks direct sunlight and minimizes growth of shrubs etc along the trail edges under the canopy. About halfway along Section B, the "To-Williams Trail", as we will call it for now, comes in from the right forming a "T" with Section B.

A series of wooden Posts, listed in two tables below, describes flora along the Pre-Circle Trail.

Table 1. Sequential List of Floral Posts on the Left (L) and Right (R) Sides of the Pre-Circle Trail, Section A.

1. Red Maple, *Acer rubrum* R
2. Paper-mulberry, *Broussonetia papyrifera* L
3. White Oak, *Quercus alba* R
4. Winged Sumac, *Rhus copallinum* L
5. Black Cherry, *Prunus serotina* L
6. Christmas Fern, *Polystichum acrostichoides* R
7. Blackberry, *Rubus allegheniensis* L

8. American sycamore, Platanus occidentalis R
9. Muscadine Grape, Vitis rotundifolia L
10. Persimmon, Diospyros virginiana L
11. Swamp Black Gum, Nyssa biflora R
12. Common Elderberry, Sambucus canadensis R
13. Devils Walkingstick, Aralia spinosa L
14. Northern Red Oak, Quercus rubra L
15. Flowering Dogwood, Cornus florida R
16. Redbud, Cercis canadensis L
17. Mockernut Hickory, Carya alba R
18. Loblolly Pine, Pinus taeda L
19. Virginia Pine, Pinus virginiana R
20. Tuliptree, Liriodendron tulipifera R
21. Silverling, Baccharis halimifolia R
22. Bigtooth Aspen, Populus grandidentata L
23. American Elm, Ulmus americana R
24. Eastern Red Cedar, Juniperus virginiana R
25. Trumpet Creeper, Campsis radicans L
26. Pale Hickory , Carya pallida R
27. Black Gum, Nyssa sylvatica R
28. Pignut Hickory , Carya glabra L
29. Water Oak, Quercus nigra L
30. Eastern Red Cedar, Juniperus virginiana L
31. Common Wax-myrtle, Morella cerifera L
32. Southern Wild Raisin, Viburnum nudum R
33. Winterberry, Ilex verticillata R

34. Common Greenbrier, Smilax rotundifolia L
35. Coastal Sweet Pepperbush, Clethra alnifolia R
36. Sassafras, Sassafras albidum R
37. Deerberry, Vaccinium stamineum R
38. Sweetgum, Liquidambar styraciflua R
39. Maleberry, Lyonia ligustrina R
40. Red Chokeberry, Aronia arbutifolia R
41. Willow Oak, Quercus phellos L
42. Japanese Honeysuckle, Lonicera japonica L
43. American Beech, Fagus grandifolia R
44. American Holly, Ilex opaca L
45. Arrow-wood, Viburnum dentatum L
46. American Hornbeam, Carpinus caroliniana R

Table 2. Sequential List of Floral Posts on the Left (L) and Right (R) Sides of the Pre-Circle Trail, Section B.

1. Loblolly Pine, Pinus taeda R
2. Post Oak, Quercus stellata L
3. Black Gum, Nyssa sylvatica R
4. Sweetgum, Liquidambar styraciflua L
5. Red Maple, Acer rubrum R
6. Willow Oak, Quercus phellos R
7. Southern Red Oak, Quercus falcata R
8. American Hornbeam, Carpinus caroliniana R
9. Muscadine Grape, Vitis rotundifolia R
10. Mockernut Hickory, Carya alba R
11. Pale Hickory , Carya pallida R
12. Common Wax-myrtle, Morella cerifera R

13. Sweetgum, Liquidambar styraciflua R
14. Flowering Dogwood, Cornus florida R
15. Northern Red Oak, Quercus rubra R
16. Black Oak, Quercus velutina L
17. Virginia Pine, Pinus virginiana L
18. Water Oak, Quercus nigra R
19. Tuliptree, Liriodendron tulipifera R
20. Pale Hickory , Carya pallida L
21. American Beech, Fagus grandifolia R
22. Deerberry, Vaccinium stamineum L
23. American Holly, Ilex opaca L
24. Post Oak, Quercus stellata L
25. White Oak, Quercus alba R
26. Sourwood, Oxydendrum arboreum L
27. Eastern Red Cedar, Juniperus virginiana L
28. Striped Wintergreen, Chimaphila maculata R
29. Common Ground-pine, Dendrolycopodium obscurum L
30. Chinquapin, Castanea pumila L
31. Sassafras, Sassafras albidum L
32. Persimmon, Diospyros virginiana R
33. White Oak, Quercus alba R
34. Swamp Chestnut Oak, Quercus michauxii L