

The Marsh Wren

SINCE 1976

THE FRIENDS OF DYKE MARSH

WINTER 2022



FODM 2022 Member Meetings

March 2, at 7 p.m., see p.1
May 18 and October 26, 7 p.m.

Calendar of Events

Every Sunday, 8 a.m., Bird Walks

February 19, March 5 and 19,
10 a.m., Invasive Plants Control

April 9, 9 a.m., Trash Cleanup

April 30, 10 a.m., Raptor Rapture

See www.fodm.org and our
Facebook page for details.

CONTENTS

This issue of the *Marsh Wren* has 12 pages rather than the usual 8 pages to accommodate more photographs and articles.

FODM Elections	2
GWMP Supt. Message	2
President's Message	3
Stabilizing Dyke Marsh	4
Cleaning Up the River	6
Gone for the Winter	7
Beaver Busy in Winter	8
FODM Budget	11
Documenting Wildlife	12

Bald and Golden Eagles

March 2 FODM Program

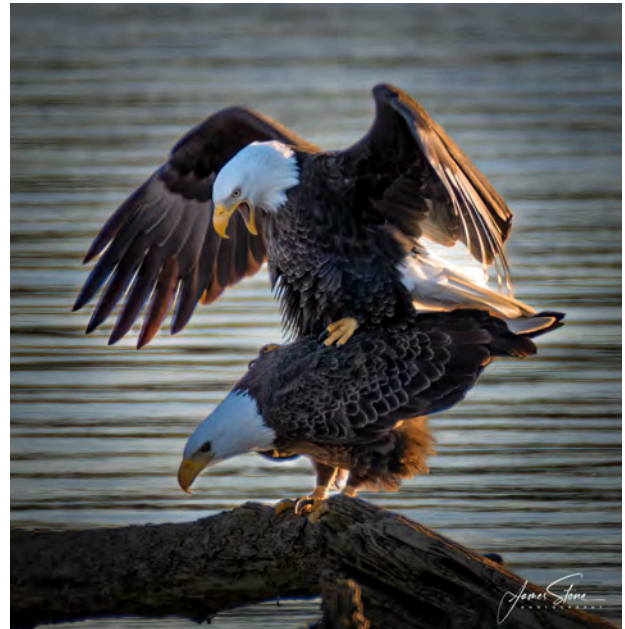
On March 2, FODMers and friends can learn all about bald and golden eagles at our 7 p.m. Zoom meeting when Jeff Cooper, a Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) wildlife biologist, will give a talk. He will explore eagle biology, recent research, the bald eagle's recovery and the importance of the Chesapeake Bay region to bald eagles.

Cooper has worked with DWR for 20 years and with birds for over 30 years, birds like eagles, raptors, vultures, passerines and marsh birds. He has done extensive work in Virginia with bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*), including the delisting of the bald eagle from the federal threatened and endangered species list. He has investigated winter ranging behavior of golden eagles and worked to minimize the wind energy facilities' risks to bird populations. Cooper has co-authored over 17 peer reviewed publications related to his raptor work.

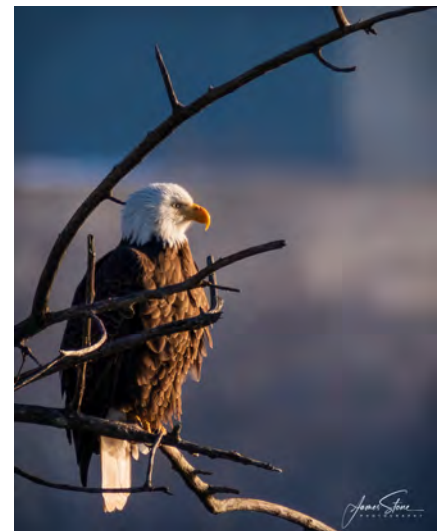
Since 2009, there have been three known active bald eagle nests in Dyke Marsh. Many people have delighted in watching the Haul Road nest pair and young. This pair fledged one young in 2019 and two in 2020 and 2021.

The Friends of Huntley Meadows Park, the Friends of Mason Neck Park, the Northern Virginia Bird Club and the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia are cosponsoring the meeting.

To register, click [here](#) or go to our home page, www.fodm.org, and click on the "click here" link in the left column under "March 2, 7 p.m., Bald Eagles. You will receive a confirmation email.



Bald Eagles in Dyke Marsh. Photos by Jim Stone



Annual Meeting and Election on March 2

The FODM March 2 membership meeting will also be FODM's annual meeting. We will elect officers and members of the Board of Directors. The proposed nominees, all of whom have agreed to serve are listed below. Other nominations can be considered at the meeting.

We have included in the paper copies of the *Marsh Wren*, for those members in good standing, a proxy form for establishing a quorum and voting at the meeting if a member cannot attend. The form includes instructions for completing and returning it by February 25. For those who receive the newsletter by email, we will send you a separate email with the proxy and instructions for replying by email. Please email your proxy by February 28, 12 noon. Be sure to send your proxy if you cannot attend.

Officers and Board of Directors nominees, all of them incumbents: Glenda Booth, President; Dixie Sommers, Vice President; Dorothy McManus, Secretary; Matthew Smith, Treasurer; David F. Barbour; Carolyn Bednarek; Carolyn Gamble; Jim Gearing; Deborah Hammer; Meg Jonas; Randy Myers; Bob Veltkamp.

George Washington Memorial Parkway Superintendent's Message

BY CHARLES CUVELIER

We are saddened to share the passing of Brent O'Neill, a 24-year employee, and active part of the park's Visitor Services. Brent was diagnosed with cancer a few months ago and it spread aggressively. You may wish to share your memories on Caring Bridge. He leaves a long legacy of stewardship and commitment to park resources.

I extend my appreciation for your volunteer efforts. In the last fiscal year, 3,240 volunteers contributed 16,589 hours of service parkwide. Volunteering rebounded after a pandemic downturn last year. Total contributions from FY 2019 to FY 2021 exceed 8,400 hours and are valued at nearly \$1.5 million.

In partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Dyke Marsh restoration's Phase II contract was awarded to Coastal Design and Construction to extend the existing sill by 1,720 linear feet. No significant work in the water will occur between February 15 to June 30, the anadromous fish spawn season. We anticipate sill construction to be done between this summer and January 2023.

On December 16, Chuck Sams was sworn in as the Director of the National Park Service. To the NPS workforce, Director Sams said, "You are all a part of something big, something that really matters. I am so happy to be here with you, working alongside you and striving together to inspire all Americans."

We have completed eight significant parkway projects, including the rehabilitation of the Clara Barton Parkway, Arlington Memorial Bridge, Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial, the Dentzel Carousel, Dyke Marsh phase I restoration and the rehabilitation of Patowmack Canal Lock 2.

This year, we will begin replacing bridge 12 on the Mount Vernon Trail, south of Waynewood Boulevard. We completed restriping the south parkway and will soon start rehabilitating the north parkway with funds from Great American Outdoors Act. FODM's advocacy with Senator Mark Warner and others helped advance this important legislation. We are encouraged by the nearly \$450 million investment in the park during the past five years, funds from varied sources.

We welcome 20 new team members, including Rebecca Karcher, Visitor Services program; Cassie Anderson, South District Ranger; Stacy Shannon, Concessions Specialist; Anna Medema, Special Park Use Permits; and Jerry Garcia, Deputy Chief Facilities Management.

Friends of Dyke Marsh Board of Directors

President

Glenda Booth
703-765-5233

Vice President

Dixie Sommers

Secretary

Dorothy McManus
(*Marsh Wren*)
703-960-3643

Treasurer

Matthew Smith

Board Members

Ed Eder (Past President)

Bob Veltkamp (Membership)

David Barbour

Carolyn Bednarek

Carolyn Gamble

Jim Gearing

Deborah Hammer

Meg Jonas

Randy Myers

Board members can receive emails at info@fodm.org. *The Marsh Wren* is a quarterly publication of the Friends of Dyke Marsh, Inc., a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Letters and submissions to *The Marsh Wren* are welcome. Send them to the address at left. Special thanks to Duncan Hobart for managing our website (www.fodm.org).

Editor:

Dorothy McManus

Assistant Editor:

T. D. Hobart

Friends of Dyke Marsh

P.O. Box 7183

Alexandria, VA 22307

info@fodm.org

Visit our website at

www.fodm.org

or on [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/fodm)

Copyright © 2021, The
Friends of Dyke Marsh, Inc.
All rights reserved.



President's Message

Glenda C. Booth, President, Friends of Dyke Marsh

The world lost two renowned conservation biology giants in December, Dr. E.O. Wilson and Dr. Thomas Lovejoy.

Dr. Wilson was the first person to determine that ants communicate mainly through the exchange of chemical substances called pheromones. He observed that the 1.5 million named species in the world represent only a small fraction of what exists and he predicted that 30 to 50 percent of all species would be extinct by the middle of this century.

Dr. Lovejoy, a professor at George Mason University since 2010, introduced the term “biodiversity” in 1980. He focused on the Amazon forests and merged field research and policy, showing how fragmented forests reduce diversity and how they can store carbon if protected. He explored “edge effects” of forests disturbed by humans by trails or roads, for example. He concluded that when people create forest edges, the remaining areas become hotter and drier and they lose carbon and diversity of species, reported the December 27 Washington Post.

Restoration

The United Nations (U.N.) has declared 2021 to 2030 as the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. U.N. studies show that restoring nearly 1.4 million square miles of degraded land by 2030 could remove 13-26 gigatons of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, while generating \$9 trillion in ecosystem services. To align with the U.N.’s goals, President Joseph Biden has committed to conserve 30 percent of the nation’s land and water by 2030, a plan known as 30 by 30. This will be an uphill challenge in Virginia. The state would have to nearly double its total amount of protected lands, which are currently around 16.5 percent, wrote Evan Visconti for the Virginia Mercury.

With volunteers, we are doing our part.

First, we have long supported the National Park Service’s (NPS) work to stabilize and restore Dyke Marsh. Two U.S. Geological Survey studies found that the marsh will be gone by 2035 without action. As Superintendent Cuvelier and we report in this issue, NPS will extend the existing protective sill north. The breakwater and sills are designed to slow down erosion and encourage accretion of wetland sediments.

Second, for many years FODM volunteers have worked to control invasive plants that threaten native habitats. We eliminated much of the bush honeysuckle lining the Haul Road Trail. We’ve tackled plants like porcelain berry vine and mile-a-minute. For three years, we’ve tried to keep invasive plants at bay in our native plant site.

Third, we are leading an “assault” on English ivy climbing up trees and last winter we started down the parkway. We helped Girl Scout Troop 2335 remove ivy in December and supported Gabe Perez’s Eagle Scout project. Perez, a junior at West Potomac High School, organized and led other scouts in November and collected 22 39-gallon bags of ivy and three 39-gallon bags of trash. He raised funds and donated leftover supplies and \$37 to FODM. Thank you, Scouts.



Boy Scouts work to remove and collect invasive English ivy. Photo by Gabe Perez

Fourth, since 2015, FODM has funded treatments to save 18 pumpkin ash trees threatened by the invasive emerald ash borer. Dyke Marsh is losing around 1,000 pumpkin ash trees, experts say, because of this insect. So far, the treatments seem effective. We are urging NPS to plant more trees in the marsh and along the parkway.

Fifth, we are supporting the Plant NoVaTrees campaign to increase Northern Virginia’s tree canopy. The campaign explains, “A native tree is one that evolved within a given local ecosystem and therefore participates fully in its intricate plant/animal/fungal/soil interactions. . . Only plants that evolved within a local area are able to participate meaningfully in the intricate plant/animal/fungal interactions that make up its ecosystem.” Visit <https://www.plantnovatrees.org/>.

We look forward to a safe, productive 2022. Take heart – “our” bald eagles are now incubating eggs.

Dr. Wilson left us these and many other inspiring words: “There can be no purpose more enspiriting than to begin the age of restoration, reweaving the wondrous diversity of life that still surrounds us.”

Glenda C. Booth

Glenda C. Booth is the president of the Friends of Dyke Marsh and active in conservation issues in Virginia.

Stabilizing Dyke Marsh, Another Step Forward

This article was published in the December 9, 2021, issue of the Mount Vernon Gazette, Connection newspapers. FODM has long supported the stabilization and restoration of Dyke Marsh. All photos by Glenda Booth unless otherwise indicated.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH



The completed breakwater with a view of National Harbor's ferris wheel on the Maryland side of the Potomac River.



A surveyor on the shoreline helped guide the crane.

The National Park Service's multi-year effort to stabilize and restore Dyke Marsh advanced another step when on November 4, the agency awarded a contract for phase two of the project to Coastal Design and Construction, Inc., a Gloucester, Virginia-based marine construction firm.

Coastal Design built the 1,500-foot breakwater, phase one, that extends into the river near Morningside Drive and a rock sill just north of the breakwater in 2019 and 2020. In phase two, the company will construct another 1,720 feet of rock sill, north of the current sill. Park Service officials say that construction will ensue between July 2022 and January 2023. To protect migratory anadromous fish, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission's permit bars any work in the water between February 15 and June 30.

Dyke Marsh is a freshwater, tidal wetland on the Virginia side of the Potomac River, a unit of the George Washington Memorial Parkway of the National Park Service. Parts of it are 2,200 years old. It is home to at least 36 species of fish, 16 reptiles, 14 amphibians, 34 mammals, over 200 bird species and many invertebrates. "Dyke Marsh is a magnificent little oasis," said the late U.S. Senator John Warner who lived nearby. In 1959, Congress added the wetland complex to the national park system, "so that fish and wildlife development and their preservation as wetland wildlife habitat shall be paramount," states Public Law 86-41.

STABILIZING DYKE MARSH (continued on page 5)



A marsh wren in Dyke Marsh, once abundant there. Photo by Ed Eder

Loss of Marsh, Loss of Wildlife

Historically, Dyke Marsh supported the only known nesting population of marsh wrens (*Cistothorus palustris*) in the upper Potomac tidal zone. Halle described them in the marsh in 1947: "All over the marshes we heard them, singing in a steady chorus, each song a gurgling chatter, brief but repeated with hardly time for breath between. When it became light enough, we saw the singing wrens as far as the eye could reach over the marshes . . . The dots were bobbing up and down everywhere, like a natural effervescence given off by the marsh." In 1950, surveyors counted 87 singing males. In 2012, they found two nests. "Only one female-occupied nest has been reported since 2014 and the prospects for marsh wren recovery at Dyke Marsh currently seem bleak," wrote Larry Cartwright, leader of the annual breeding bird survey this year.



Gone by 2035

The U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) 2010 and 2013 studies concluded that the marsh was once 650 acres in size but had shrunk to 60 acres and was losing 1.5 to two acres a year, at an accelerating rate.

"This freshwater tidal marsh has shifted from a semi-stable net depositional environment (1864–1937) into a strongly erosional one . . . The marsh has been deconstructed over the past 70 years by a combination of manmade and natural causes. . . By 1976, the marsh had entered a net destructive phase, where it remains at present," USGS concluded in 2010.

In a 2013 update, USGS reported, "We ultimately conclude that Dyke Marsh presently is in its late stages of failure as a freshwater tidal marsh system. . . In the absence of human efforts to restore the equilibrium between marsh and tide, and equilibrium to the other natural forces acting on this wetland, Dyke Marsh likely will continue to accelerate its degradation, erosion and fragmentation until it is gone. This likely will occur prior to 2035 AD."

USGS experts attributed the destabilization of the wetland to extensive dredging from 1940 to 1972, when Smoot Sand and Gravel, hauled away 270 acres. The first thing the dredgers removed was a promontory that extended out into the river, a protective "thumb" that buffered storm waves and winds coming up the river.

In building the breakwater, cranes lowered rock "mattresses" down to the river bed to support the breakwater's riprap.



A crane scooped up rocks from a barge to build the breakwater.

The breakwater is designed to replicate the former promontory, a priority recommended by USGS. The breakwater would "redirect erosive flows in the marsh, particularly during strong storms and would re-establish hydrologic conditions that would encourage sediment accretion," says the NPS restoration plan.

NPS analyses have cited other changes detrimental to the marsh, including building the parkway, Woodrow Wilson Bridge and the Belle Haven Golf

Course; urbanization and stream channelization. Sediment from Hunting Creek that once settled in Dyke Marsh is now deposited mostly north of the marsh at the creek's confluence with the Potomac River, where mudflats and emergent wetlands are developing, NPS concluded.

Why Restore?

The 2016 NPS plan explains, "This project is needed to protect the existing wetlands from erosion, non-native invasive plants, loss of habitat and altered hydrologic regimes and to restore wetlands and ecosystem functions and other ecological processes. These actions would improve flood protection, sediment and toxicant retention, protect and create additional wildlife habitat and add recreational, scientific and educational value." A one-acre wetland can store about three acre-feet of water or one million gallons, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The project is largely funded by a \$24.9 million "Hurricane Sandy" grant. On October 24, 2013, then U.S. Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell announced the grant at Dyke Marsh. Jewell said, "What we witnessed during Hurricane Sandy was that our public lands and other natural areas are often the best defense against Mother Nature. By stabilizing marshes and beaches, restoring wetlands and improving the resiliency of coastal areas, we not only create opportunities for people to connect with nature and support jobs through increased outdoor recreation, but we can also provide an effective buffer that protects local communities from powerful storm



Two bald eagles observed the construction from one of the barges.

surges and devastating floods when a storm like Sandy hits."

Congressional Support

The late Congressman John Dingell (D-MI), a supporter of the 1959 authorizing legislation, called for restoration, saying, "We expect that the Secretary will provide for the deposition of the silt and waste from the dredging operations in such a way as to encourage the restoration of the marsh at the earliest possible moment . . . to rebuild the area by siltation and in all other necessary and proper ways." In 1974, Congress authorized the Corps of Engineers to assist NPS in restoring Dyke Marsh. The House of Representatives reaffirmed its support in 2009 and the U.S. Senate in 2010.

In his 1947 book, *Spring in Washington*, naturalist Louis Halle touted Dyke Marsh as "the nearest thing to primeval wilderness in the immediate vicinity of the city." Hopefully, restoration will make it more so.

Cleaning Up the River

BY GLENDA BOOTH

Construction has begun on Alexandria's \$454.4 million RiverRenew project, an initiative designed to keep 140 million gallons of untreated sewage out of local streams and the Potomac River each year. For many years, FODM urged the city to address this pollution, a mixture of rainwater and sewage that overflows the system during some storms.

The project includes a two-mile-long underground tunnel, facilities to direct sewage into the tunnel, a Hooffs Run Interceptor, pumping stations and a structure for pumping station equipment. AlexRenew will treat the combined sewage and rainwater before returning it to the river. Visit www.riverrenew.com.



Fog on the Potomac River from Dyke Marsh. Photo by Michael Sieracki

Gone for the Winter

BY ELIZABETH FORTSON WELLS

Dyke Marsh is a tidal freshwater marsh dominated by a variety of grasses and annual and perennial broad-leaved aquatic plants, plus a handful of woody plants tolerant of flooding.

Annual aquatic plants, such as wild rice (*Zizania aquatic*) and orange jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*) die completely at the end of the growing season, but their dead stems and leaves usually remain until winter storms knock them down. As they decompose, they release their nutrients into the environment. The plants will return when their seeds germinate the following spring.

Perennial herbaceous aquatic plants die to the ground but return the following year from living but dormant roots, rhizomes, bulbs, corms and other means of vegetative reproduction. Examples in Dyke Marsh include spatterdock (*Nuphar lutea*), cattails (*Typha angustifolia*), green arrow arum (*Peltandra virginica*), rose mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*) and beggar ticks (*Bidens laevis*), plus herbaceous vines like groundnut (*Apios americana*) and climbing hempweed (*Mikania scandens*). Their dried stems, leaves and fruits can often be seen throughout the winter until destroyed by winter storms. In addition to vegetative regrowth, these species return when their seeds germinate in the spring.

The woody plants found in Dyke Marsh most often occur in the upper tidal zone or in the forested wetlands surrounding the marsh. Like other deciduous woody plants in our flora, they shed their leaves and go dormant in late autumn and leaf out again in the spring. Examples include woody vines such as non-native porcelain berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*) and native greenbrier (*Smilax rotundifolia*). Shrubs typical in Dyke Marsh are the shrubby dogwoods (*Cornus amomum* and *C. stricta*) and swamp rose (*Rosa palustris*). Common deciduous trees in Dyke Marsh tolerant of tidal flooding include box elder (*Acer negundo*), red maple (*A. rubrum*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) and slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*).



Cattails (*Typha angustifolia*) Photo by Dorothy McManus



Rose mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*) Photo by E.F. Wells



Spatterdock (*Nuphar lutea*) Photo by Ned Stone

Beaver Busy in the Winter

This article was published in the January 4 Mount Vernon Gazette, Connection Newspapers.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH

“You have beavers here?” National Public Radio journalist Sabri Ben-Achour asked incredulously when he visited Dyke Marsh a few years ago, not expecting them in Northern Virginia’s suburbs. The answer is yes, and there are beavers around Mason Neck and in Huntley Meadows Park too. Beavers live in or around ponds, rivers, marshes and lakes.

Because much aquatic vegetation is dormant, beaver lodges are more visible in winter than in other times of the year. The lodges are typically rounded stacks of logs, sticks, mud and vegetation that protrude from the water. They have two underwater entrances. Freshly-gnawed trees are also sure signs of beavers. They cut down trees with their strong teeth.

As for spotting a beaver, they are mostly active at night so few people see them. The best time is at dusk or sunrise. They are active year-round and do not hibernate.

“Engineers”

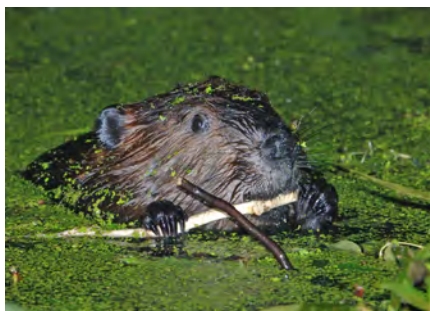
North America’s largest rodents, beavers (*Castor canadensis*) are dark brown mammals with long incisors, short legs, webbed feet and a long, flat, scaly tail. They can dig and grasp tree limbs with their claws. They are three to four feet long including the tail and typically weigh 40 to 50 pounds. Some can weigh up to 80 pounds. They primarily eat herbaceous vegetation, woody and aquatic plants.



A beaver lodge in Dyke Marsh. Photo by Glenda Booth



Beaver swimming.
Photo by Randy Streufert



Beaver eating bark off a tree branch.
Photo by Randy Streufert



Beaver tail.
Photo by Randy Streufert

BEAVER BUSY IN THE WINTER (continued on page 9)

BEAVER BUSY IN THE WINTER (continued from page 8)

Beavers breed in the winter and live in family groups or colonies. Their young are born in May and June. They have a home range size of eight acres, according to state wildlife experts.

Known as “nature’s engineers,” beavers build dams and lodges with the trees they cut down. The result can be viewed positively or negatively, depending on how or whether people want to use the land. The ponds formed by beaver dams provide habitat for waterfowl, reptiles, amphibians and aquatic insects. Ponds can filter pollution and help control flooding. They can also flood crop and timberland, roads and backyards.

If there are leaks in the dams, they will patch them with mud, sticks and brush. Their industriousness in building and repairing dams may be the origin of the terms “busy as a beaver” and “eager beaver.”

“Local” Beavers

Most public land managers hesitate to estimate how many beavers or lodges are around.

At Huntley Meadows Park, “We do not know how many beavers or lodges are within the park,” says Karen Sheffield, the park’s manager. “The largest and most visible lodge can be seen from the boardwalk during the winter months, if you know where to look.”

When the Fairfax County Park Authority acquired the park’s land in 1975, Barnyard Run was an intermittent stream. In 1977, beavers dammed the stream and created the central, freshwater wetland. In the 1970s and 1980s, the park’s wetland was around half open water and half vegetated wetland, productive and diverse. Silt began coming in in stormwater runoff in the late 1980s and the beavers, nomadic animals, moved out. After many years of deliberation and public meetings, park managers decided to restore the marsh and artificially manage water levels, a project completed in 2014. The control system is a 500-foot-long, three-foot-high earthen berm with metal slide gates.



Beaver lodge in Mason Neck State Park. Photo by Randy Streufert



Beavers felled a tree next to the boardwalk in Dyke Marsh. Photo by Glenda Booth



A beaver lodge in Dyke Marsh. Photo by Glenda Booth

“On Mason Neck, there is one large beaver lodge clearly visible at the state park on the Bay View Trail and likely others further inland and in Kane’s Creek. “Beavers have been active in the Little Marsh part of the Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge for many years,” says Randy Streufert a Board member of the Friends of Mason Neck State Park. A lodge is also visible from the Great Marsh Trail viewing platform.

For many years, beavers maintained a dam and lodge in the part of Dyke Marsh behind the River Towers Condominiums, but they moved on several years ago, as is their wont. Since the beavers left, more cattails and wild rice have moved in, plants that grow in shallow water.

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources’ website says that beavers are likely present in every Virginia county. People have seen them in Alexandria and Arlington over the years.

By the mid-1800s, beavers were effectively extirpated from much of their eastern U.S. range because of the fur trade. People made their soft pelts into coats or hats, shipping many to Europe. Today, Virginia manages beavers as a game species.

“Beavers pose little threat to humans, their property or pets,” according to Fairfax County’s website.

For more information, visit <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/nuisance/beaver> or <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/wildlife/beaver>

DOCUMENTING WILDLIFE (continued from back cover)

So far, we have captured images of many wildlife species. Pictures of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), gray squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*) and opossums (*Didelphis virginiana*) — the only marsupial found in the United States — are numerous. In addition, the camera documented the presence of a coyote (*Canis latrans*), an Eastern cotton rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) and a Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*). The camera also photographed several bird species and a common snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*). The data collected signals a diverse community of life. Although the camera has not yet established the presence of minks or weasels, we are hopeful.

By July 1, 2022, we will report our findings and conclusions to the National Park Service and publish a report in a future *Marsh Wren*.



White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)



Coyote (*Canis latrans*)



Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*)



Common snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*)



Opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*)

Here is our proposed FY 2022 budget for your information. If you have any questions, please contact FODM Treasurer Matthew Smith via email at info@fodm.org.

Budget Category	FY22 Budget
Total Projected Income	\$ 11,650
Dues	\$ 6,500
Regular donations	\$ 5,000
Amazon Smile Foundation donation	\$ 150
Total Projected Expenditures: Ongoing Operations	\$ 13,401
Marsh Wren	
Marsh Wren printing	\$ 1,600
Marsh Wren mailing	\$ 200
Program and meeting expenses	
Speaker honoraria & expenses	\$ 750
Meeting room rental	\$ 540
Meeting supplies	\$ 150
Zoom licenses	\$ 510
Insurance	\$ 1,423
Membership expenses	
PayPal fees	\$ 250
Membership brochures	\$ 265
Printing Materials	
Seasonal brochures	\$ 3,000
Kids' flyers	\$ 100
Bird checklists	\$ 688
Butterfly checklist	\$ 800
Miscellaneous	\$ 100
Website expenses	
Web hosting	\$ 1,600
Education and outreach	
Virginia Conservation Network membership	\$ 100
Virginia Natural History Society membership	\$ 40
Participation in National Capital Region Partnership Summit	\$ 50
Administrative expenses	
PO box rental	\$ 180
State fees: VDACS registration	\$ 30
State corporation fees: SCC annual fee	\$ 25
President's administrative expenses	\$ 800
Other administrative expenses	\$ 200
Total Projected Expenditures: Special Projects - From General Funds	\$ 7,500
Proposed research project	\$ 7,000
Two chronolog citizen science monitoring stations	\$ 200
Trash and invasives removal; maintaining native plants area	\$ 300
Total Projected Expenditures: Special Projects - From Restricted Funds	\$ 1,670
Pumpkin ash treatment	\$ 500
Wildlife camera	\$ 50
Bat recording equipment and supplies	\$ 1,120

Welcome New FODM Members

FODM welcomes our new members Donald Barnes, Cynthia Caples, Laura Clerici, Juli Cooper, Bill Corin, Scott Falk, Stephen Fitzgerald, Marge Ginsberg, Ruth Grover, Linda and Ty Hosler, Elaine Kolish, Philip Lyons, Jennifer Maloney, Sarah Manning, Clarence Monteiro, Cynthia Nickerson, Lynn and William Russell, Vibhanshu Shekhar, Robert Stackhouse, James Stone, Michaela Weglinski. We welcome our new **Lifetime Members** Paula Dubberly and Kristin Stephen and **conversions to Lifetime Membership** Barbara Liggett and Matthew Smith.

Sunday Morning Bird Walks

Bird walks are held Sunday mornings, all seasons. Meet at 8 a.m. in the south parking lot of the Belle Haven picnic area. Walks are led by experienced birders and all are welcome to join us.

U.S. Park Police, Emergency Number:
202-610-7500

FODM Membership - Dues and Contributions

Support the Friends of Dyke Marsh by becoming a member or renewing your membership. Benefits include the Friends' publication, *The Marsh Wren*; membership meetings with knowledgeable speakers; Sunday morning bird walks and notification of activities in and around the marsh. Most importantly, your membership lends your voice in support of the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve and our efforts to advocate for full restoration of the marsh. Just click on the "Join" or "Donate" button on our membership page at www.fodm.org to make your tax-deductible contribution by credit card or from your bank account securely through PayPal. For help, info@fodm.org. If you prefer, you can send a check, payable to FODM, P.O. Box 7183, Alexandria, Virginia 22307. The annual dues are \$15.00 per household, \$250.00 for life membership for an individual. You will receive a notice by mail or by email when your renewal is due. A financial statement is available upon written request from the Virginia Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs. Thank you for your support of FODM.

DUES AMOUNT..... \$ _____
 ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION..... \$ _____
 TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED..... \$ _____
 NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 TELEPHONE NUMBER _____
 EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Please address any questions or comments about *The Marsh Wren* to Dorothy McManus and about membership to Bob Veltkamp. You may contact them by mail at FODM, P.O. Box 7183, Alexandria, Virginia 22307-7183, by telephone or by email (see page 2).

Documenting Wildlife: FODM's Camera Project

BY DAVID BARBOUR

In May 2021, the Friends of Dyke Marsh started a year-long project to document wildlife species in the preserve. The National Park Service approved our research permit application and in June we installed a motion-activated camera and placed a box of "bait" (dead fish) near the camera to attract animals. FODM Board member David Barbour is heading this project, assisted by Merri Colli, a George Mason University graduate student.

While we, George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) officials and others have documented many species of mammals, birds, insects, amphibians and reptiles in the marsh, most species of wildlife avoid interacting with people and some are nocturnal so people rarely see them. With this project, we hope to collect data documenting wildlife in the preserve and to determine whether animals such as minks and weasels are in the marsh. Brent Steury, the GWMP's Natural Resources Program Manager, suggested this project, and said that Dyke Marsh



Red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) All photos from FODM motion-activated camera

is typical habitat for minks and weasels, but no one has ever confirmed them there.

DOCUMENTING WILDLIFE (continued on page 10)