

*To Teta, our mentor, our friend, our guide,  
our nature advocate.*



Teta, you always put a smile on my face whenever we paddled together. Nobody tells the story of the intertwined trees like you do, and I will forever love the fact that our beavers live in gated communities. And nobody pronounces my name like you do! All the best, **Ahht (Art) Gilbert**



Thank you, Teta, for encouraging all of us to love and appreciate the Dragon through all of your educational and stewardship efforts.

– **Robin Mathews**

Teta, you are one of a kind. Your legacy will last for decades!

– **Steve Mathews**

I always joked that I wanted to be Teta when I grew up but I finally realize that your life is uniquely incredible. I remain inspired but know there is only one Teta! I am so fortunate to have known you all these years and got to share adventures with you on and off the Dragon! I'm so glad your name will live forever alongside the Dragon Run! – **Anne Ducey-Ortiz**



This is such a fantastic way to celebrate You! – **Mike Grose**

Thank you, Teta for your vision and to protect the Dragon Run and for your willingness to share your commitment with so many others! – **Meo Curtis & Jeff Deschamps**



I was just beginning to go on bird outings, about 40 years ago and you were one of the first experts I met. You could not have been nicer or more welcoming or more enthusiastic. You were instrumental in convincing me that birding was rewarding and important. Later we worked together on the bird records committee of the Virginia Society of Ornithology. More recently, we've worked together on butterfly surveys. Your expansive knowledge and boundless energy are an inspiration to all! Thank you, Teta! - **Brian Taber, President, Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory**

Teta, It has been a blessing to have known you for 22+ years! Your friendship is very special and important to me and I am continually thankful for the kayaking adventures and breakfast get-togethers we have been able to enjoy. I am also so appreciative for your love of the Dragon and how you have passed that on to so many others, including me. I think everything I know about the Dragon came from you. You continue to inspire; we all want to be Teta when we grow up! With much love, **Andy Lacatell**





When I grow up, I want to be like you! –  
**Susan Crockett**



Teta, you will always be my  
Maine squeeze! Thank you  
for teaching me to love  
smaller things that fly and  
go bump in the night. You  
are our unforgettable funny  
and cuddly Maine muse  
who inspired legions of us  
to love to yap while  
kayaking. – **Jeff Wright**



Teta, John and I thank you for getting us onto the river and teaching us to love it. The wonderful place you have preserved will live forever because of the love you have shared with all of us. To our very own Queen of the Dragon, with thanks for sharing your vision, your energy, and your love of the Dragon Run with us all.

- **Vera and John England**

Teta, 20 years ago, while I was a VISTA volunteer in Bath County, you came to our Bath-Highland Bird Club meeting and gave a presentation. The meeting was over around 9:00 pm so I asked you where you were staying. “Oh”, you said, “I’m not staying overnight. I’m heading back to Gloucester.” It was a 4 hour trip through incredibly narrow winding mountain roads! But off she went! What an inspiration she has been to me for so many years!

- **Jan Tyndall**



I had never heard of Teta Kain or Friends of Dragon Run until I got a phone call from Teta one evening in 2010. In less than 30 minutes, I had been recruited to take over the Communications Chair and to volunteer to help lead kayaking trips down Dragon Run.

The first time Reyn Kinzey and I were helping with a kayaking trip with you, you started asking “Garden” about

something. We looked at each other and asked if he could actually be named “Garden”. A little later, we introduced ourselves and found out that his name is

Gordon. We soon got used to your accent, but we often had to interpret your Maine accent to guests.

You are an encyclopedia of knowledge about anything and everything in and on Dragon Run. You have a natural gift as a storyteller. No matter how many times I heard your stories about birds, butterflies, beavers, plants, and trees, I always learned something new. Who knew that I would ever learn about a beaver's sex life!

You have a wicked sense of humor and an infectious laugh. This tiny woman can take charge of any situation, fill a stage with great presence, and make a huge impact on any endeavor. Thank you, Teta!

- Becky Day & Reyn Kinsey

Hi Teta,

It is your old friend, Thelma, here to talk about an adventure that the two of us have shared. We have travelled to so many places...the Antarctic, Borneo, Panama, Ecuador, Alaska, Argentina, but my favorite was our one-month odyssey to New Zealand/Australia in the fall of 2005. Wasn't that a great trip! What was your favorite part? Was it staying in New Zealand with Carol and Detlef in their beautiful home and going out on that cold, rainy night carrying red night-vision flashlights to spot the Kiwi? Maybe it was that visit we made to Gluepot Wildlife Refuge where we drove our rental car over that HORRIBLE wash-board road and watched all of the young Emus scrambling around. Could it have been that cabin on the Saint Mary's River near Darwin where the guide took us out and talked so graphically about the salt water crocodiles?



I know that my very best memories of that trip come from Chambers Rainforest Lodge near Cairns where the Brush Turkeys ran all around and we couldn't leave any snacks out on the porch or they would come and eat them! I can just close my eyes and see that Riflebird display, the Laughing Kookaburra that would actually take food from my hand, those spectacular rose-pink Galahs in the trees and that beautiful green Catbird that would come down to the feeder. Do you remember hearing the Whipbird right outside our window and that morning when we heard a loud commotion and ran out on the porch to discover that a huge Amethystine Python had killed and was in the process of eating a Brush Turkey. Of course, who could ever forget that drive we made to get a "close and up personal" view of a Cassowary!

Oh Teta, you are such a wonderful friend and we have made so many grand memories together. Your recognition for all that you have done, not only for Friends of the Dragon, but your enthusiasm for sharing your love of nature with others, and your willingness to work is certainly well deserved. I so much wish that I might have been there to share this day with you, but Texas is a long way from Virginia... you know my thoughts and best wishes are right there with you today on Dragon Run. (Psych! I actually came to Virginia and surprised you!)

- Your friend, Thelma



I have been privileged to paddle and hike with you over many years, but the epiphany came during a talk you gave at the York County Library, accompanied by your incredible photographs of "The Dragon by Night." I was deep in the wonder of this newly-revealed world, and forming my own resolve to experience it, when we came to a slide of a tree base surrounded by thousands of tiny points of light. "What are those?", we asked. "Oh--spida' eyes!" said Teta. I quickly gave up my new resolve. What remains is deep admiration for your courage, perseverance, and determination to experience and share every aspect of the world you love. - Martha Graham

Dear Teta, how wonderful that there will be the “Friends of Dragon Run Teta Kain Naturalist Preserve”! You are most deserving of this honor.

Seig and I thank you for your help, inspiration and patience over the years. We know much more about butterflies and moths from the many walks at Chippokes, the Eastern Shore and Williamsburg.



Do you recall the extreme heat in July, 2010 on the Chippokes Butterfly Count? Our last stop of the day on that count was Hog Island. The temperature posted on the display board was 119. Certainly one of the hottest butterfly counts on record.

We so enjoy sharing time with you ‘cause we always learn something and have fun at the same time. Love, Alice & Seig Kopinitz

I remember the day I met you, Teta. You were at The Kayak Farm in Mathews, crawling all over the kayaks Jan and Shawn Towne displayed. How could I miss your obvious passion for life and anything nature related!! I remember asking Jan about you and she in turn, introduced me to you. You quickly started to speak “Dragon Run” as you shared ideas about trips on the Dragon Run. Your enthusiasm was and still is contagious.

Fast forward a few years when I paddled the Dragon with Bambi Thompson, Christi Lewis and a few others. You shared so many great stories about paddling on the Dragon including the Beavers’ Gated Communities, How the Dragon Run got its name, and of course the mistletoe. You made us all feel like this was your very first tour as your wonder and awe about nature flowed through your words, facial expressions, and yes, your delightful Down East accent. (It probably was your 500<sup>th</sup> trip!) I knew then I wanted to become involved in the Friends of Dragon Run.

Your enthusiasm led me into becoming a member of the crew and Bambi and I both were asked to join the FODR Board. We enthusiastically accepted the invitation. I



loved the way you'd share your thoughts and ideas at the monthly meetings. You always kept everything centered on nature and The Dragon.

Fast forward again as a proposal was written and the Friends of Dragon Run received a grant from Dominion Energy, DREAM (Dragon Run Environmental Academy Mentorship). You planted the seed, and we will nurture this academy on the Dragon Run Watershed where educators from five counties will fall under the magical spell of the Dragon and Teta Kain. Thank you, Teta! - **Good Golly it's Jolly Molly**

Dear Teta,

My wife and I moved to Williamsburg, VA in October of 2010, and during the first few years here your name cropped up fairly often: Moth talks here, bird walks there, kayak tours somewhere else, and so on. As I met more people in the Williamsburg area (Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, bird enthusiasts, etc.), your name continued coming up and I knew I had to meet you and get to know you. That opportunity came in August of 2014 when Adrienne Frank established the Williamsburg NABA Count Circle and held the first annual Williamsburg Butterfly



Count. I was a participant but not part of your team, so at the post-count gathering I grabbed a seat next you to you and we chatted about what we had seen – or not seen – during the day. It didn't take long for me to understand why everyone spoke so highly of you and I was truly blown away learning how much of your life has been devoted to advocating for Nature. I still get dizzy thinking about your energy and enthusiasm, and how knowledgeable you are about so many things and how insatiable your appetite is for learning even more.

Since that time, I have attended one of your moth talks at New Quarter Park and enjoyed looking for moths on UV light sheets with you afterwards, and I have participated in numerous NABA butterfly counts with you, including (among others) the Delmarva Tip Count, the Great Dismal Swamp Count, the Island Ford Count, the Shenandoah National Park Count, and of course, the Chippoke's Plantation Count, which you established.

In August of 2017, I joined you and several others at Dragon Run for a mushroom/fungi walk (another aspect of your vast well of knowledge) and learned



a great deal from you about those amazing fruiting bodies. You had your dog, Bravo, with you, but he wasn't terribly interested in mushrooms. However, as we walked along a lovely trail in the forest, he became instantly interested in a deer we encountered and broke away from you, disappearing into the undergrowth after the deer. You immediately took off in pursuit – I didn't know you could move that fast! – and emanating from the forest we heard snapping limbs, deer screams, shouts of BRAVO! NO! BRAVO!

NO! And other phrases best not repeated here. You eventually emerged from the forest with Bravo in tow and the deer left in peace. It was an exciting several minutes for those of us left behind on the trail listening and just one of the many fun adventures I have enjoyed with you. I have included a photo of you from that day where you are photographing an interesting mushroom as an unimpressed Bravo sits beside you.

I have read articles about you where you are called the Queen of the Dragon, the Empress of the Dragon, or the Doyenne of the Dragon, but your titles don't end there. You are a Tireless Volunteer, an Exceptionally Knowledgeable Educator, and an Unwavering Champion for Nature. Thank you for everything you have done and continue to do, Teta. Your enthusiasm for adventure is infectious and I have been blessed to know you. You have been, and continue to be, an inspiration to us all and no one is more deserving of this honor than you. Congratulations!

- **Ken Lorenzen**

In 2010 we met at the Saluda Food Lion to Check in for the paddle trip. You were blasting AC/DC and putting on your wetsuit. I joked "Oh no, I forgot my wetsuit!" You smiled and said "That's ok, you won't need it, I'll be getting in the water to clear the beaver dams for you!" I thought, "What a Badass!" – **Dean Shostak**

The saying that “sometimes the best things come in small packages” rings true for Teta Kain. You are the ultimate energizer bunny, even now in your 80’s. You are always on the go, doing something incredibly exciting, and always contributing to conservation in VA and beyond. Skydiving for your 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and traveling to exotic places to add to your bird list gives insight to this amazing woman and VA naturalist. Your interest and passion for nature is contagious, as witnessed by the growing participation of all the organizations you have served, including the Friends of Dragon Run.



Since the day I met you in the early 1980’s, you have been my mentor, colleague, and friend. You were in charge of bird records for the Virginia Society of



Ornithology, and I was coordinating the Nongame and Endangered species program for the VA Dept of Game and Inland Fisheries. You reached out to me asking for help to secure the decades of bird data records in VA. This was before digital record technology of course, so we found ourselves bonding over long evenings on the VDGIF copy machine making copies of the literally truckload of VSO records you had amassed and wanted to secure for the future. After several weeks of late-night copying discussions, it was obvious to me that you

were a serious birder, scientist, and teacher. You hooked me into Breeding Bird Surveys, Christmas Bird Surveys, Atlases, Bird Counts and multiple new events. Soon there formed an active partnership with VSO and VDGIF. Your enthusiasm spread these bird topics and events like wildfire across the state with a wider audience. When we launched our first “urban” wildlife /birding area, Ragged Island, you helped me compile a bird list for the area and develop an informational brochure for environmental education.

You were not just a great birder, but also a great photographer and communicator. You spoke it like it was, enhanced it a bit with a grin and twinkle in your eye and an enchanting Maine accent. You were in high demand to present your slide shows (yes, the technologies before Powerpoint, etc.). No telling how many hundreds of presentations you made across the state and beyond, all encouraging interest and participation in bird conservation. After making the

speaker rounds multiple times to likely all bird clubs in the state, you never tired of coming up with new topics, species and conservation issues to infuse passion and present new conservation topics to broader audiences across the state.

But birding was just the start of your list. Next you were giving butterfly, moth, spider, flowers, and many other taxa/species presentations that weren't even popular yet. These too caught on like wildfire, with your enchanting, mischievous delivery accompanied by your great stories and photos. Intermixed with all these VA topics were your exceptional presentations on many exotic trips introducing us to new species and lands, and waters.

And speaking of lands and waters, you and I met annually to do the Chincoteague Island Christmas bird count. It was a true privilege to be covering this area in the wilds of winter with you, but we always made it fun with a long list of birds, whether or not the weather cooperated and we were half frozen or wet. But one year, long ago before cell phones, you decided not to carry a camera. That was the year we walked up on a snowy owl hidden in the dunes. We were within 10 feet of it, watched it eat and discard its meal afterwards. Yet when we submitted our observation, the VSO records committee rejected it. We got an ironic taste of the importance of detailed records and photos after your long years of maintaining them for VSO. We still laugh about that to this day. Being timed with the Christmas



holidays, there are other hilarious stories when you joined my family and friends to celebrate the times with hot toddy and more. You amazed my kids with your clever drawings for "Pictionary" and others can only imagine how much fun that was listening to you laugh.

There was never a dull moment. You either had a great story to fill any silence, or was off to yet another place to document and explore. One of your greatest contributions to VA Conservation is the work and interest you have built for the Dragon Run. Any one of the thousands of participants who have taken a paddle trip with you can understand why you share a passion for this special place. It is so fitting that such an ardent naturalist and conservationist as Teta Kain be honored for her immeasurable contributions to this special watershed and conservation in VA. Congratulations, Teta, from the bottom of my heart, it is truly well deserved. I only wish I could have been there in person to give you a big hug and thanks!

- Sincerely, **Karen Terwilliger**



Dear Teta,

You are my superhero! You're tough. You're intrepid. You get the job done.

The job might be leading paddle trips on Dragon Run, which you did for many, many years. Or spending hours and hours and hours every winter compiling annual Christmas Bird Count data for the Virginia Society of Ornithology, which you also did for many, many years. Or organizing the annual Chippokes State Park Butterfly count which, you also did for many years. Or testifying at a public hearing on an environmental issue. Or slogging through the sloughs of Dragon Run looking for rare plants. Or serving as

President of Friends of Dragon Run. Or putting miles and miles and miles on your many vehicles giving talks throughout Virginia on your foreign travels. Or on Dragon Run. Or on spiders. Or on God knows what else. Or spending hours in subfreezing weather counting birds or in 90+ degree weather counting butterflies. Or leading walks. Or paddling the Dragon at night looking for rare invertebrates. Or setting up a sheet and UV or mercury vapor light to attract and identify moths and other nocturnal insects.

Whew! The list seems endless.

Another thing about super-heroes is that they have outgoing, larger-than-life personalities. You have inspired hundreds of folks over the years and instilled in them an appreciation of the beauty and fascination of the natural world. And I would bet that not one of the folks who participated in one of your paddle trips, walks, or programs left bored or down in the mouth.

With your boundless energy and charismatic personality, you have to expect a few rumors that you're actually an android! And those rumors weren't helped by the fact that there was a period 20 or 25 years ago when you seemed to have a body part replaced every winter. (And who else but a superhero could endure all that?) But I've pinched you a few times over the years, and you seem pretty real to me! Teta, it breaks my heart that, due to health reasons, I am unable to attend the dedication ceremony on June 22. But I'm sure that it will go well, and no one deserves this more than you!

Lots of love to you, Teta! - **Allen Belden**

Teta, it's always a great day doing a butterfly count with you. This Tawny Emperor found you as magnetic as the rest of us and it followed you around for quite some time. Whether in the cab or on the tailgate it was always an adventure going out in the truck. No one does 3-point turns in the Dismal Swamp like you do! Thank you for teaching me to love spiders as much as birds and butterflies! xoxo - **Nancy Barnhart**

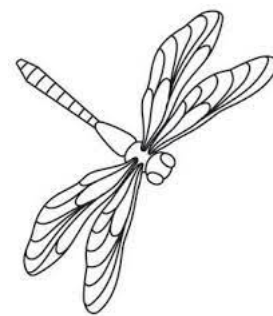


Teta, I'll always remember and appreciate your devotion to recording photographically the flora and fauna of "the Dragon" — at night — during every month of the year. What extraordinary dedication! Please know that we love you and appreciate all you have done by personal example for FODR.

And, please know that I speak for brother Jimmy as well. - **Harvey Morgan**

Congratulations Teta on being honored with your very own nature preserve. Well deserved! Your decades long passion for the Dragon has been unwavering, contagious, and unmatched. Your energy and commitment to lead innumerable educational float trips and give so many presentations on all sorts of plants and animals, including birds, butterflies, moths, spiders, etc. is inspiring to many. I admire your dedication! Also, thanks for inviting scientists such as me, Ollie Flint, and Boris K. to learn about the biota of the Dragon and share your enthusiasm for a special place on this fragile planet. - **Steve Roble**, Senior Zoologist, Virginia Natural Heritage Program

Teta, you have served as an enormous pillar of strength, accomplishment and service for the Virginia Society of Ornithology for decades. You are one of 4 individuals to be accorded the organization's highest recognition, the Myriam Putnam Moore Award. Teta served the VSO as President, Vice President, and Secretary. You were the Editor of The Raven, and was the Editor of the third edition of Virginia's Birdlife: An Annotated Checklist (the "Blue Book"). For more than 30 years you were the compiler/editor of Virginia's Christmas Bird Counts. Your work as chair of numerous VSO committees was critical to the the organization's growth and sustainability. All who worked with you loved your enthusiasm and zest for life! – **Bill Williams**



Teta, you have been a mentor, teacher and friend for many years. I cannot express how much I have learned from you and how much we have laughed together. – **Jeff Trollinger**

Teta, in the few years I've known you, you have added so much to my life. I paddled the first time on a cold rainy morning. But you made everything come alive and bright. You pointed out plants, birds, insects as though they were personal friends. You magically brought everything to life and made it sparkle. I didn't know then that I would come to know you better and that you would always create magic on the paddle trips. But, I did know that I had found a place that I loved and a guide who would take me there. Love, - **Anne Atkins**





Dear Teta,

We are so excited that FODR chose to name the preserve at Mascot in your honor! It wasn't you who first introduced us to the Dragon and showed us all its magical wonders, but it was you who showed how to truly love it, appreciate it, and celebrate it in so many ways! Our first trip down the Dragon was with the Anderbergs. We met at Food Lion and used a tandem kayak with Emily sitting (sleeping) between us. We put in at 602, stopped at Big Island for lunch and a hike around the Island and took out at the soon to be Teta Kain Nature Preserve. We were hooked and quickly became involved with FODR!!!

We can't even remember when we first met you, but we have so many memories of paddle trips down the dragon with you and Gordon! I remember being awed by you on a nature walk at Dragon Run Day at RCC – you just walked on the trail and showed us all cool things in nature that had to be seen! Mostly various types of fungi and lots of spiders if I recall!

I eventually got on the Board and got to know you better and got to experience the Dragon through Teta's eyes! You would call me up and we would do a moonlight paddle with Gordon, Rollin, our buddy Pat Tyrrell and Adrienne and Gary! We had so much fun and lots of laughter! Remember when the bull frog jumped in your kayak that night! And Pat's childlike excitement at all the spider eyes that lit up the Dragon at night light jewels! Such great times!

I loved sharing adventures when you had special trips to escort other naturalists or were looking to capture a species through your camera lens. We did that birding foray one year and I was at a loss for seeing or hearing any of the species you and your birding buddy saw, but you showed me so many other species and sites and it was such a privilege to tag along! And that time you wanted to get pictures of the Red Headed Woodpecker – we went down past the Eagle's Nest property with just us and Adrienne and Gary and tried to get pictures of the bird we saw the day before on a group paddle. We got to see it, but not sure if we ever got a good picture of it! Dan always loved when we saw the Irises blooming and he and you went to get pictures of them. It was amazing that neither one of you ended up in the water, but you both were so excited to capture the beauty of the Dragon with your fancy cameras! We did lots of work on the trails and you would tell us stories of your time with Jimmy Morgan and how much you respected him. I treasure

those memories that aren't mine but mean so much to me and the history of the Friends of Dragon Run.

We always loved doing the paddles with you! We will never tired of your talking or your wonderful jokes about the musk mounds and “not tonight I have a headache” or the classic “gated community” joke! I remember when you couldn't paddle and working with Gordon on some of the trips – he had all the information to share but didn't have the Teta way of presenting the information to the group! You are one of a kind and no one can take your place, which is why we're so excited that your name will be forever associated with the Dragon Run at Mascot! So many memories of welcoming kayakers to the Dragon and loading them into Big Red for the trip in the back of the pick-up to Big Island; dragging kayaks up the hill after and loading them onto trailers and into pick-up trucks; trying to remember how to tie them down or use those ratchet things to tighten them up! You, Adrienne and Gary would get so excited about the butterflies you would see puddling in the parking lot – I never could remember all the names! So many changes over the years from when you first approached the Board with the idea of doing paddle trips to raise money and not just encourage people to love the Dragon by falling in love with it like we did to where we are now. Quite a legacy for a Queen turned Empress!

Teta, we are so grateful to have you in our life since we moved to Virginia! Everyone's life is so complicated and busy and full of obligations and things that need to get done. The Dragon, for us, has always been a peaceful refuge from the craziness of life and the day-to-day obligations that drag us down! To us, you are synonymous with the Dragon, and when we are with you there, or anywhere, our hearts are full of love of nature and the natural world. This is something we've always had, but for some reason, you bring it to life in a way that we only hope to do! With love and forever friendship, - **Anne Ducey-Ortiz and Dan Ortiz**

Memories of our years knowing Teta.

*Adrienne and Gary remember when...*

Circa 1997 – We first met Teta paddling the Dragon Run, of course. We were canoeing in those days. One of our first memories was at the Mascot put in. The group was about to launch, and a large snapping turtle was laying eggs in the middle of the path. Teta got down on her belly and aimed her camera right in the face of that huge snapper. We were in awe!



During the paddle, we were impressed by Teta's knowledge of nature, especially identifying birds by ear.

2000 - After getting to know Teta and her friend Pat Tyrrell, Adrienne joined the FODR Board. Teta was President and Adrienne became secretary. Davis Rhodes was the recent past president and joked with Teta at every opportunity. The Board met at the Gloucester Presbyterian Church for meetings. In those years, Teta gave quite a few presentations, using her projector and 1000s of slides of all things nature. I admired her knowledge, joyful humor and beautiful jewelry.

Gary and I went to our first FODR picnic. Teta stood on a table to start the festivities. At a FODR booth at the Urbana Oyster Festival, we met Anne Ducey-Ortiz & her husband Dan.

In May 2000, we joined an overnight camping adventure with Friends of Dragon Run. A group of about 12 of us paddled from Mascot to Route 17. It was a brutal trip, because trees blocked the river, and we repeatedly portaged the canoes over

them. David Clements was our hero. We used his canoes and brought his camping gear, included a cook stove. David knew where to find dry land to camp and dragged the canoes through the swamp to the camping spot. When David was lighting up his stove, we noticed that he had leeches on his leg. He was about to



flick them off when Teta said "oh no don't do that, let me take a picture first."



*David Clements* working to make a channel through the big tree.

Visit to the big tree near Big Island – *Adrienne, Lorna & Mike Anderberg, John Munger, and Gary.*



2001 – Pat Terrell, Teta, Gary & I paddled the Pamunkey and Mattaponi Rivers, and the lower Dragon into the Piankatank. We did trash pick-ups and attended General Meetings on Friday nights.

In July, we joined a camping trip to the Upper James. Davis brought his tarps, tents, tables, and plenty of gear.





*Tom & Kathryn Gregory*



*John Munger and Pat Tyrell*

2002 – The FODR Board has a facilitated retreat and developed pages of goals and work plans. In attendance were Mike & Lorna Anderberg, John Munger, Davis, Pat, Russel & Rachel Williams, and others.

2003 – Teta went to Antarctica and showed her slides at an FODR General Meeting. We had workdays and cleared trails. Teta liked to flip sticks off of the trail using a walking stick, then I picked up that habit.

2004 –Teta led a walk around Big Island during our annual picnic. Teta pointed out flora and fauna and where Boy Scouts and other campers used the latrine.

*Tom & Christina Cramer, Mike & Lorna Anderberg, Felicity, and Teta.*



We had a display at the first Dragon Run Day at the Rappahannock Com. College and still have the T-shirts to prove it.

Mary Hyde Berg led a plant walk on the Revere Tract; she was active in the John Clayton Chapter of the VA Native Plant Society and really knew her plants. She was know for her strong opinions, loud voice and local accent (the same as Byron).

Paddle Seasons - Teta arranged, led, transported, and collected numerous donations.

2005 – Lots of paddles on the Dragon. Teta would jump out first to clear the beaver dams. It took a little longer to clear, prior to Gordon's gates. This time, she let Gordon help.



FODR sweats were for sale at an October FODR Picnic.

*Lorna Wass* was a founding member, her husband Marvin worked at VIMS.

In the background, *John Langloh*, was an Orthopedist, valued board member, bag piper, and dog lover.

*Hugh Markham* led many trash pick-ups.





2006 – Our first butterfly experience was with Teta at Chippokes State Park, where she adopted the already existing Butterfly Circle.

She hosted a count with Ruth Burch. Back then, we didn't have a clue about the skippers, but we had wonderful adventures.



2007 – This was the year of the field trip to the ancient trees on the Nottoway River with *Byron Carmean*. I think that the State Champion tree, Big Momma, was still alive that year. We had to paddle across the river when the water was low to see those awesome, misshapen trees. FODR and the native plant society went together.

Some of the participants were Tom Gregory, Donna Ware, Annick, Allen & Mary Turnbull.



2008 – At Teta's suggestion, Gary started to care for the Prothonotary Warbler nest boxes on the Dragon Run. Lorna & Mike Anderberg originally placed the boxes at Route 602 & Mascot. Gary started collecting data as a part of his first VA Master Naturalist Citizen Science project.

In September, the Annual Bird Festival was held on the Eastern Shore of VA. We joined Teta for bird and butterfly counts for several years.



*Bill Ackers, Jerry Via, Brian Taber, and Fenton Day*



*Hal (and Lynn) and a Northern Harrier at hawk watch.*

2009 – There were FODR work days, paddles, meetings, Bird Fest on the ESVA, Dragon Run Day, etc. Teta came along to the Rice Center off Route 5, for a night of bugs with Art Evans and the master naturalists, and we saw numerous frogs and insects.



Donna Ware led a plant walk on the Revere Tract.

*Donna Ware, Mary Hyde Berg, unknown person, and Gary.*

*Gary trying out Gordon's beaver gates.*





Winter work day at Big Island - *Davis, Frank Herrin, Teta, Cynthia Honablue, John Langloh, Adrienne, Gordon Page, and a few others.*

2010 – Plant walks, paddles, and butterflying. We participated a DelMarva Tip Butterfly Count, walked the Dragon, went to the Rice Center. Teta was invited to lead a butterfly and plant walk at the Master Naturalist picnic at Ted’s house on the Chickahominy River.

Chippokes Butterfly Count – *Adrienne, Teta, Glenn (Ruth’s husband), and Allen Belden*





Adrienne holding up Teta's calendars for sale at the Dragon Fest at Thousand Islands Campground.

2011 – FODR walk Big Island, April paddle season. Butterfly Counts – Delmarva Tip with *Teta, Ruth, and Mary Ella. Allen, Teta, Seig & Alice Kopinitz* at the Dismal Swamp Count.



*Teta, Ruth & Glenn* at Chippokes - eating watermelon.

In October, paddle, FODR Picnic, and the Eastern Shore Bird Festival. All with Teta.

2012 – Very sad to recall our last visit to Pat Tyrrell and her memorial.

Butterfly Counts – Chippokes, Delmarva Tip, Dismal Swamp, and Richmond City with Allen (saw a Dainty Sulphur, typically seen in FL).

Bird Festival and Dragon Festival. In December, members of the FODR Board met at Teta's house, and compiled a mailing, which resulted in raising \$19,000 for purchasing the Revere Tract.

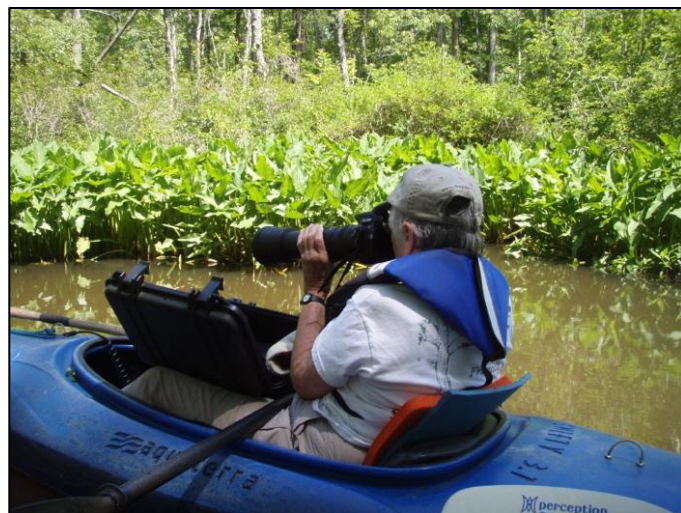
2013 – Paddles, FODR Business & General Meetings, another evening at the Rice Center. FODR picnic and the Historic Rivers Chapter of the VA Master Naturalist's picnic at Ted's house.



On August 17, we explored the before establishing the Williamsburg Area Butterfly Count Circle. Teta led the Williamsburg City sector with Dean Gordon, for 8 years running.

2014 – FODR strategic planning facilitated by Becky Day and Reyn, paddles, trash pick-ups, walk on the Revere Tract. Butterfly counts – Delmarva Tip, Dismal, Williamsburg.

Teta continued to take wonderful photos. On June 24, we had a night paddle on the Dragon. We heard lots of Cricket frogs and saw lots of spider eyes (e.g., Six-spotted fishing spider).



2015 – FODR Workday Feb. 7, April paddles and kayak cleaning at Teta's. In July, we drove up to the mountains for the Shenandoah (Luray) Butterfly Count with Allen, and participated in the Chippokes, Dismal, and Delmarva Tip counts.

Moth night at New Quarter Park, Teta did her presentation before dark, and we studied the insects attracted to the black lights on sheets.



In September, we did the Colonial Historical National Park butterfly count. FODR picnic canceled due to rain. October had the Bird Festival, FODR work day, and the Master Naturalist picnic at Ted's.



In December, we had the first Annotated Butterfly Booklet meeting. Our team included Teta, Allen, Ken Lorenzen, Brian Taber, Les Lawrence, Shirley Devan, Nancy Barnhart, Jan Lockwood, Gary and I. Teta gave me pages of daily sightings from her yard in the 1990s, and I listed them all in the booklet.

Rachel Williams' first time ever on the Dragon, taken out in a canoe by John Jensen.



2016 – Teta, Gary, and I participated in the Christmas Walkerton Bird Count. We visited the Powcan property and participated in other Dragon work days. Using many of Teta's photos, I compiled the Flora and Fauna brochure for FODR. FODR picnic, Ted's picnic, Dragon workday, and continued FODR meetings.



April & May paddles.  
Butterfly counts  
(Chippokes, Dismal,  
Delmarva, &  
Williamsburg). Visited  
Cavalier Wildlife Area and  
Cumberland State Park  
with Teta and Allen.

2017 – In January, we had 10 people attend our Annotated Butterfly booklet meeting.

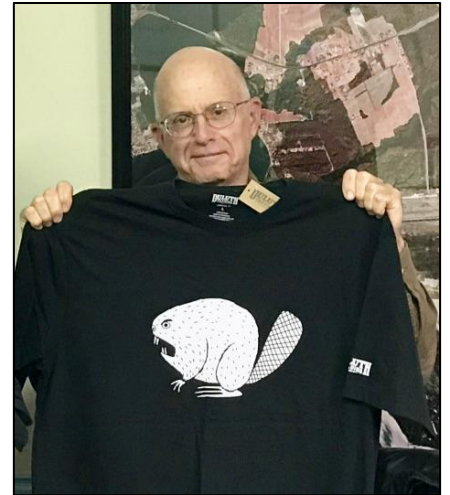


FODR workdays, trash pick-ups, paddles, and visited the Route 602 properties. Mushroom walk with Teta on Dragon property.

Many board meetings at the Middle Peninsula Planning District building. I relinquished the FODR Treasurer's position.



*Janice Moore, Jeff Wright, Queen Teta, and John Pettijohn*



*John Jensen*

2018 – Following Teta's footsteps, Adrienne started doing butterfly talks, improved the Annotated Butterfly booklet, helped Gary with Prothonotary Warbler monitoring and data compilation. Adrienne became FODR secretary again and then became president of the Historic Rivers Chapter of the VA Master Naturalists.

We began a study of Pearly-eye Butterflies (Northern, Creole, and Southern) along the Colonial Parkway. For butterfly counts, we went with Teta, Allen, and Ken to do the Shenandoah Valley, in and around Luray.

2019 – In January, we reconvened the Annotated Butterfly team for an annual update of sightings.

Example of an annotation.

Coral Hairstreak (*Satyrium titus*) Rare Brood(s): 1

Flight Period: Late May – Jul. (May – Jun.)

Reported Dates: Earliest: May 26, 1998 (T. Kain, home) Latest: Sept. 28, 1990 (T. Kain, home)

Peak Count(s): # 1

Other Sighting(s): Jun. 5, 1995, Jun. 20, 21, 23, 2015 (T. Kain, home, photo); Jun. 22, 2008 (B. Taber, JCC, BAMONA)

Habitat: Open places, fields, scrub, roadsides, and forest edges.

Caterpillar Hosts: Various species of cherries and plums (*Prunus spp.*), including Wild Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*), Chickasaw Plum (*Prunus angustifolia*), and American Wild Plum (*Prunus americana*).

Notes: Favorite nectar plant is Butterfly-weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*).



Thanks for helping save a D ragon! 4/30/19



**FRIENDS OF DRAGON RUN**

*Second from the left is my brother Gareth and Roxanne, Marc and my sister Liz. Marsha Carlton on the right. Sybil Rose, Teta, and Adrienne in the front.*

Teta guided paddles and we crewed.



June 28 was our first Island Ford butterfly count with Teta and Allen. We traversed Dolly and Bibs' farm. Dolly invited us in her house for lunch and fell in love with Teta.

The next week, Teta climbed down a steep bank along the Skyline Drive to see an Early Hairstreak. We did our first butterfly counts on the Northern Neck.

In September, we took Helen Hamilton on the Revere Tract into the Cypress knees to find bryophytes (mosses & liverworts).



2020 – Still doing the Annotated Booklet meeting, trash pick-ups until the Corona virus struck us all. We learned Zoom for FODR meetings. We drove separately but still met outdoors. We did Chippokes, Delmarva, and Williamsburg butterfly counts.

*Janice holding up the Old Growth Forest Network award. A few of the FODR founding members attended.*



Teta and Carol Kauffman came to Little Creek Reservoir Park to see the Edwards Hairstreak. The only other one seen was identified by Allen at Massanutten, VA.

## DelMarva Tip Butterfly Count. What a group!



2021- The COVID vaccine came out and life freed up a little.

In April, we met Allen at Chubb Sandhill Natural Area Preserve. He pointed out bladderworts, he scared up a nesting turkey, and we found the eggs. We also stopped at Piney Grove, home of the Red-cockaded woodpecker.



In May, we paddled with Teta and Janice. In June, we went back to Dolly's with Allen for the Island Ford count.

It was a difficult year for Reece, my father, my brother Jack and others with health and isolation issues.



Andy Lacatel with Teta when she was given the Bald Cypress Award

Kayak cleaning day at Teta's – Jack, Kerry, Art, Teta, Carol, Adrienne, Jeff, Davis, and Gary (& Jasmine!)



2022 – Despite health and family issues, we went out for walks on the Dragon Run properties, including the Kostyal parcel in Matthews, the Bulman tract, and the 602 properties with Tom & Christina Cramer.



We met by zoom for FODR business, learned about Bacon's Rebellion, fish, Ghost trees, and other topics.

FODR held its first Sunday afternoon hike, and Teta and I walked with a group on the Revere Tract.

In June, with went with Ken out to Dolly's farm for a last count together. Teta stepped down from leading paddle trips and passed down the Chippokes Count to Joni Carlson.

Dolly's Farm – We got to ride in the golf cart. Hooray!

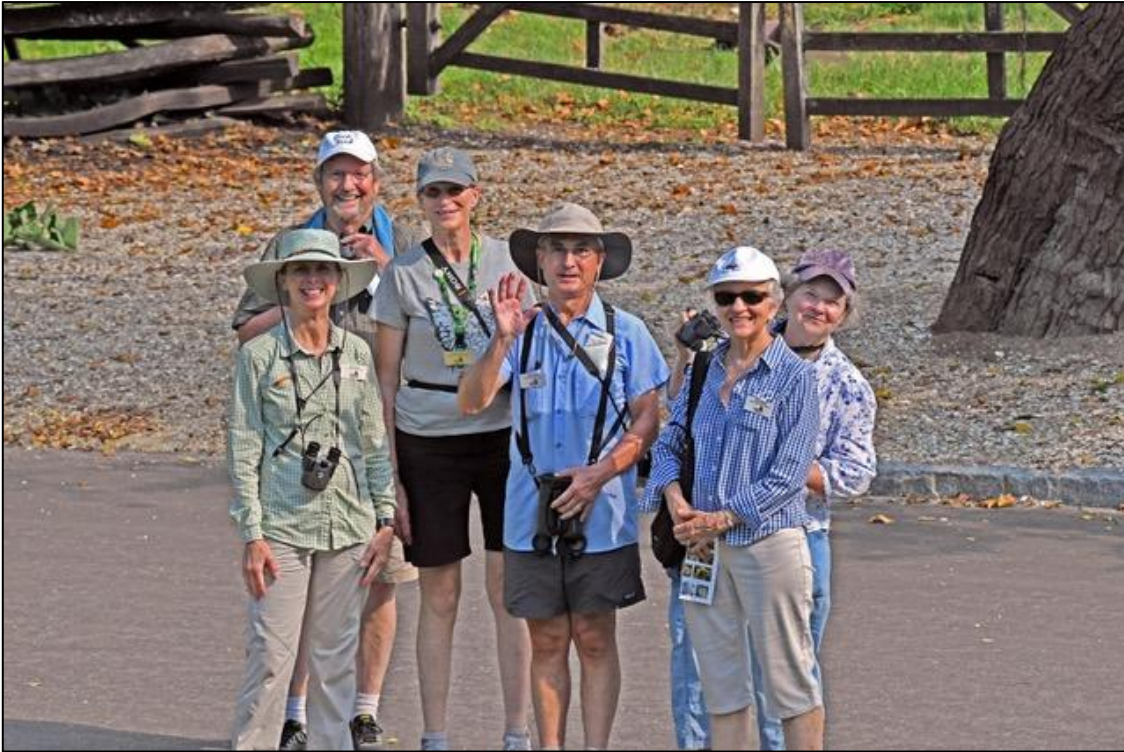


2023 – We had FODR work days and hikes on the Revere Tract and the 602 properties. Teta supported Reese in nursing care and began cleaning out her house. We visited a few times and came home with lots of mementos and field guides, and we passed a few field guides on to other master naturalists.

*Anne Atkins & Teta on Big Island work day.*

Jeff Wright and other members of FODR celebrated Teta's life achievements and FODR contributions. The Mascot property is now the Teta Kain Preserve, and we will visit there often.





The  
Williamsburg  
City Butterfly  
team waving hi!

*Linda Morse, Dean  
Gordon, Jeanette &  
Keith Navia, Mona,  
and Sherry  
Brubaker*



**Gary Driscole &  
Adrienne Frank –**  
Sitting on our  
butterfly bench.  
Compiled June  
2023

Teta – I remember the first, second, third and most other times I met you – how could I forget any of them – you are magical, a true inspiration. The first meeting is really clear – it was a cleanup-work day at Revere in the spring of 2017 – I knew no one – it was my first encounter with FODR. But you and I worked and chatted about nature, and I was impressed. First by your knowledge of nature because my being a biologist/naturalist, I don't meet a lot of people who have a grasp of nature such as you held. I was also intrigued with your "Middle Peninsula Virginia" accent, I had not heard any locals with quite that accent. Only many months later was my ignorance slapped when I learned you were from Maine – wow! That explains a lot. The next time I met you was kayaking on Dragon Run – again impressed that this tiny person could heft the kayak in and out by herself. And again, I was really impressed with the natural history expertise you spread with words, somewhat quietly, I might add, but spot on every time.



As our time together grew, I became more and more curious how you acquired your vast natural history knowledge. Having taught biology-natural history at all levels, I pondered, did this career Air Force nurse have a university biology degree? Was she a biology teacher in her former life? Your natural history awareness was too great to have taken a Master Naturalist course or a few college courses and certainly while you were a phenomenal birder, I knew it did not come from just being in a bird club or Audubon member. So, I finally just flat out asked you, How did you get into this natural history stuff and learn all this?

As I recall, you told me that you and Reece were driving along in Nebraska, and you spotted a bird and said, "I think that is a such and such bird." To which Reece responded, "No it's not!" Not sure what immediately followed that, but you did tell me that you knew little about birds and nature but the next day you went to a bookstore and bought a bird book – probably the Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America or Chandler Robbins's A Guide to Birds of North America – the only

ones available back in the day. You said that book opened your eyes, inspired you to look and listen, go and learn – it lit the fire to learn all you could about nature.

I was inspired in much the same way but our paths to natural history were very different. But you are truly an inspiration to me, and I know to many, many others, and I admire your path and your knowledge. I can think of no better gift to you than to be part of the Dragon Run Board that names a natural area in your honor. You are one of a kind and the best. – **Kevin Howe**

Dear Teta,

Fate brought us together 5 years ago when Jack and I decided to move from Pennsylvania. Not knowing a soul in Virginia, we began this time of our lives unsure of what we would be doing in our retirement years. Little did we know then, how involved we would become volunteering and meeting new friends, all because of you!

During the first few weeks of us settling in, you took us to the Dragon to hike with Anne Atkins. We later became part of the paddle crew and then FODR board members. From then on, we couldn't believe how lucky we were to have chosen 7089 Caffee Creek as our new home!



*Twins?*



We paddled with FODR with you as our guide for the first time and it was simply awesome! You introduced us to the forest of Werowocomoco and all the trails you had created over many years. (Sssh!) And remember the time I got stung by the hornets!

You taught us about the fungi and how to use a mirror to look underneath the mushroom caps, how to identify butterflies, birds, snakes, and your beloved “spidas”. Bravo has become our “2<sup>nd</sup> dog child”, and I love that you and I share the same awestruck feeling when we see all the many other critters, fungi, and plants that inhabit our neighborhood and Dragon Run.

Teta, you have inspired so many all across Virginia, and we are indebted to you! You know that if you ever need anything, we are right next door! – **Carol Kauffman**





Teta: I will always remember the first time I saw you (August 28, 2018). I was driving our motorhome down Caffee Creek Lane heading for our new retirement home. You and Bravo were along the side of the road, smiling that big smile of yours. You looked so small in your orange vest compared to our big RV. Little did I know that you were a powerful woman who would change my life!

When we bought 7089 Caffee Creek Lane we knew there was a house close to it and we were worried about what sort of neighbor we would have. But we got the best neighbors ever! It was like winning the lottery!

I guess we actually met you while we were walking Jasmine and you were out with Bravo. Soon you had us helping you trim along Caffee Creek, at that time you were clipping 100 plants every day so that from the road you could see into the forest. It was fun lending you a hand, cutting the thicker seedlings that you couldn't cut with your clippers. Soon you were introducing us to your trails in the woods. Wow another bonus for us. The ability to hike in the woods at our house and not have to drive to a trail head was fantastic! Often, we walked with you, making you stretch your legs to keep up with Jasmine who was always pulling me ahead.



You amazed us with your abilities to identify things in the natural world (butterflies, birds, plants, mushrooms). Soon we were taking pictures of mushrooms with you, using your mirror to photograph the gills, and looking at your ton of books to identify them. But your trails were too restrictive for you. You often led us off the trails to areas you had already explored. So soon we were clearing new trails with you. It was fun doing the trails and coming up with trail names for our map. We had great times walking and working together with you and Bravo in the woods.

And we saw incredible things: lady slippers, fragile dapperling, devil stinkhorns, slime molds, wolf spiders, funnel spiders, orb weavers..... the list goes on and on! Many of those things you didn't even have to look up (note, those were the days before we got apps on our phones to help identify things!). You were a walking field guide and we loved to walk with you to learn about these things. Things that we never took the time to investigate before.



In September of that year, you took us to help you and Anne Atkins make a trail on the Williams Property. You were going to lead a group hike and wanted a different trail. That was a lot of fun and was the first time we set foot on FODR property. You told us about the Dragon and we were anxious to sign up for a kayak trip led by you that October. With that kayak trip, we were hooked. You were so good at telling the group of paddlers about the flora and fauna of the Dragon. And it was such a beautiful place. We loved your stories and everyone laughed about the beavers living in gated communities and the "spidas" you told us you saw on night paddles. We couldn't have had a better guide or a more enjoyable trip. We wanted to be a part of the organization you dedicated so much of your time. An organization that loved you and treated you like its queen. So, we joined FODR, dedicated much of our time to it, and enjoyed doing all kinds of things with you for FODR. And we still do. We still enjoy and are amazed with your abilities during our volunteer events (trash pick-ups, erosion control, trail work, hikes).





We love when you join us for paddles. We are very lucky to have been active with you for the Dragon!

It was also a joy to be together with you and Reece around our home. We enjoyed many great times together. Meals or desserts together. Chatting in one of our yards. We were lucky that we met Reece before he started having problems. I respected him for all his years in the service and for the way he could fix things. I wish I had known him when he was younger. I wish too that I could have known you when you were younger! But I think you were probably much the same person you are now. It has been good to learn from you about your growing up in Maine, about your family, about your years in North Dakota (still can't understand why that was such an exciting place to live), and your years here in Virginia. But it has been nice recently to hear about all your other accomplishments. It is pretty amazing all you did for the natural world!!

You also got us involved in bird counts, and butterfly counts. Through these we have met many new people. People who really love and respect you. It's been great to be a part of these events and learn more. It has inspired us to have more native flowers and create the natural field for butterflies, birds, and other wildlife. And cultivating some of your milkweed into it! If nothing else, our flowers lure you and Bravo over to our house to look for butterflies which gives us the opportunity to chat.

It has also been our pleasure to travel with you to a few of your presentations. Our first trip was when you gave a presentation on the Dragon to Master Naturalists in Deltaville. Everyone knew you and we could tell they really respected you. You gave a wonderful presentation with great pictures. You have given all kinds of presentations around the state and shared many of these with us. We have learned a lot about all kinds of things from these talks that you do. You did one on moths,

one on butterflies, some on your travels. They were all inspiring and interesting with a good mix of humor. You sure know how to keep people's interest.

I'll stop rambling now and try to wrap this up... I started by saying that you changed my life and you did that for the better. I am doing a lot of fun things in my retirement that I would have never thought to do if it hadn't been for our move next to you. I love having you next door. It's great to see you on our walks or have you visit while I'm working outside. It's always great to have you and Bravo come to see us and to give Bravo his treats. We have taken some great photos from our house of birds and animals thanks to the advice you gave us on buying a camera. Someday I hope I will figure out how to take pictures as good as yours. Your pictures are awesome!

I am honored to be the person who lives next to Teta (yes, that's how most people think of me and I like that). I am happy to have you as a friend. And I am constantly amazed when I learn about things that you have done during your years in Virginia.



It has been one of my greatest pleasures to be part of the preparation for the dedication of the Teta Kain Nature Preserve. It will always honor and remind us of you. As will the titmouse who constantly calls "Teta Teta". – **Jack Kauffman**

Congratulations Teta,

The celebration today, June 22, 2023, highlighted the many wonderful contributions you have made over the past several decades to the image and message you have given of, and for, Friends of Dragon Run! We will miss your regular visits to paddle trips and gatherings of all types, but please know that you have left an indelible mark to the benefit of the protection and preservation of the Dragon Run! We have been blessed with your presence and are forever grateful for your expansive knowledge of the fauna and flora we hold dear and the sharing of it with us and our visitors for many years! We send our Congratulations for your success, and our Best Wishes for the future. Visit us whenever you can! - **Sharon and Dave Rhodes**

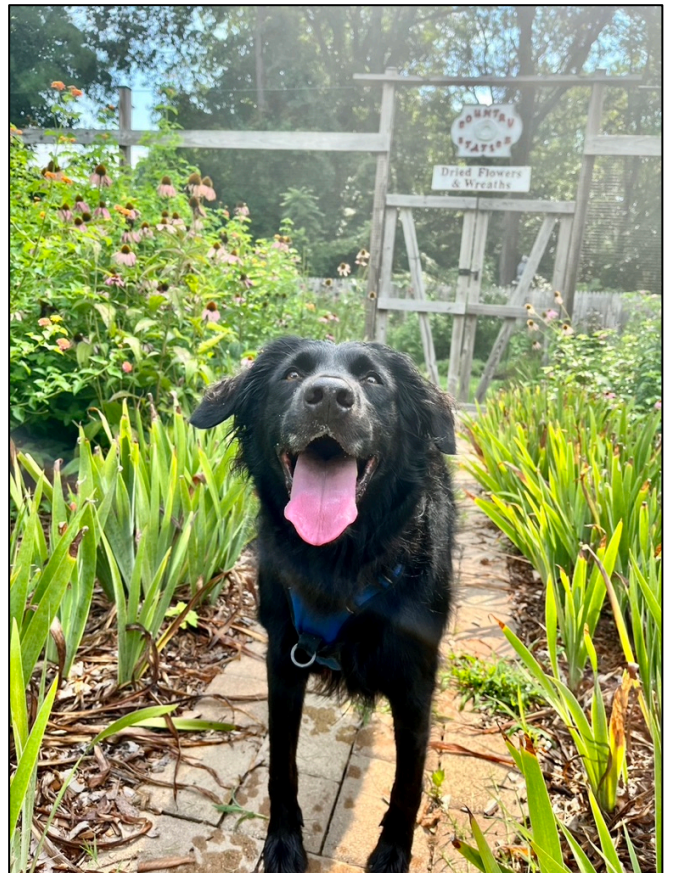


Teta,

I've known you for 25-ish years and have worked with you on several Virginia Society of Ornithology committees, projects, etc. and have birded with you a number of times. Your devotion over many years to Dragon Run and the Virginia Society of Ornithology knows no bounds. You are so deserving of this honor. - **Rexanne Bruno**

Teta:

You don't give me treats but I like you anyway. Usually when I see you, Bravo is with you and my Pa usually gives Bravo and I a couple of treats. So, for that reason alone it's good to have you as my neighbor. It's also been good to have you as a neighbor because you made walking trails so I can pull my Pa around and look for turtles (for which he gives me treats) and deer (for which he gives me treats so I don't chase them). You and Bravo are always welcome to come over to my house because I like seeing you both and I usually get treats when you come. As you probably already know, I like treats. Love, - **Jasmine**



Hi Teta,

I have many great memories of doing the kayak trips on the Dragon with you. You were always a hoot to spend the day with. I remember many of the days we spent scouting out new trails like the one from Williams to the back side of Bulman. Do you remember the work day that you, Janice, Anne Atkins, and I did when we went from Mascot down to the Robert Gibson's property when I was cutting a tree in the river and instantly I flipped over and popped up next to Anne? I recall you saying that you were looking around saying where did John go?! I do miss seeing you and hope you are doing well. - **John Jensen**

