

Publication: Akron Beacon Journal  
Date: 06-06-07

## **Dragon boat to take maiden voyage at Rex Lake**

*'Dream team' to launch*

*Cancer survivors invited to watch paddlers in pink*

By Jewell Cardwell

Ohio's first breast-cancer-survivor dragon-racing team will be launching its new dragon boat at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Craftsmen Park, 4450 Rex Lake Road, New Franklin.

Breast cancer survivor Jessica M. Mader, of Silver Lake, has attracted scores of other area breast cancer survivors for this unique Dragon Dream Team.

Mader was a paddling member of The Bosom Buddies of Nova Scotia in the summers of 2005 and 2006.

"My physician (Akron plastic surgeon Dr. Douglas S. Wagner) saw my attitude change from that of a recovering patient to one of an enthusiastic athlete," said Mader, executive director and founding member of The Dragon Dream Team.

Wagner was so moved that he purchased the team's 40-foot-long, 450-pound boat -- constructed in a Mexican rain forest and designed to carry 22 paddlers -- and the hot pink life vests.

By the way, dragon boat racing -- in existence for centuries in Asia -- is among the fastest growing team water sports in the world today.

So, please come Saturday and cheer for The Dragon Dream Team. Other breast cancer survivors are urged to stand together on the banks wearing their pink caps.

Special ceremonies -- the awakening of the dragon and the traditional dragon dance -- also will be performed.