



The Little River Watermark

Membership Newsletter for Friends of DuPont Forest

August 2005

The Blue Ghost

As the dark of the June night descended, I began walking from the Buck Forest parking lot down the main trail into the Dupont Forest. I was in a group of about 20 members of the Friends of the Dupont Forest who had gathered to observe the Blue Ghost, a rare firefly found only in the Appalachian Mountains.

My husband and I had arrived approximately thirty minutes earlier with a flashlight and our hiking boots. While we waited for total darkness to descend, one of the Friends offered each member of our chattering group red cellophane paper to cover the lenses of our flashlights. Dr. Jennifer Frick, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies and Ecology at Brevard College, had gathered us around her to hear a short talk about the phenomena we were about to witness. When she finished her lecture and told us to begin the hike, I felt excited like a child who had snuck out of bed to meet a friend in the woods at night.

After our group of Friends strolled less than a minute on the trail, we saw Blue Ghost fireflies glowing to our right just above the ground under the branches of oak, tulip poplar, and hemlock. The tiny beetle-like creatures emitted a continuous blue light as they hovered above the leaf cover. When I bent down to better observe them, I saw fireflies dancing like a strand of blue miniature Christmas lights blowing in a soft breeze. I was so enthralled with watching them, that I fell behind the group. My husband called my name to encourage me to keep up with him and the other members as they began to leave the main trail.

When our group turned right onto a smaller path, we encountered a greater number of Blue Ghost fireflies than were visible on the main trail.

by Robbie Peterson ter Kuile, Guest Writer

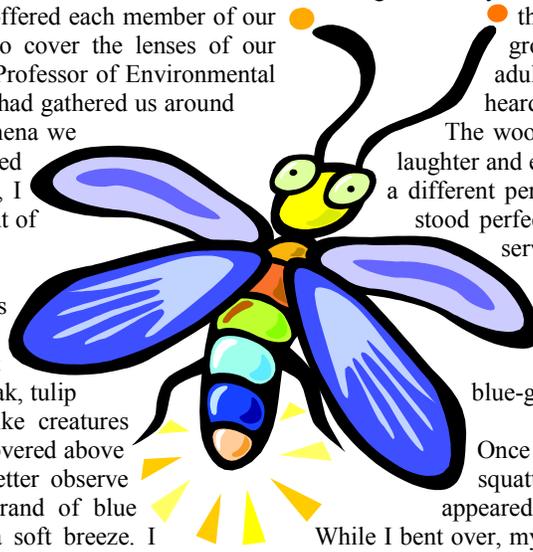
A few of the fireflies silently crossed the path in front of us at our waist-level, while the majority of them flitted under the sanctuary of the trees. It had been raining earlier but stopped during our walk. The night air was cool and I was glad I had on a cotton sweater under my rain jacket. The smell of the damp forest was calming.

During the twenty or thirty minutes we spent being enchanted with the fireflies, I wasn't aware of anyone in our group trying to catch the flying insects. Most adults strolled along the path, but parents were heard encouraging their children not to run ahead.

The woods vibrated with the sound of the children's laughter and excitement. Sometimes I stooped lower to get a different perspective of the tiny creatures; other times I stood perfectly still as I slowly turned my head to observe the fireflies drift in front of me from one side of the path to the other side. Dr. Frick discovered a female firefly on the ground and gently scooped her up to show us how the white larva-like female differs from the blue-glowing male.

Once we returned to the main trail, I stopped and squatted to more closely observe a firefly that appeared to be lying on the damp path at my feet. While I bent over, my husband told me another firefly was hovering close to my back. Then I heard a woman near us exclaim, "Oh, look! It has landed on her back." I remained motionless and held my breath, as I imagined the Blue Ghost kissing me, before I straightened up to walk out of the forest and back to our car.

Robbie Peterson ter Kuile is a Turning Memories into Memoir instructor at Isothermal Community College, Polk County, NC.



Good Trails Don't Just Happen

by Chuck Cordray, FODF Trails Committee Co-Chair

YOU CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE was the theme for FODF's National Trails Day celebration Saturday, June 4th. FODF members and the Trails Committee, along with the Pisgah Trailblazers manned Buck Forest, Hooker Falls, Lake Imaging and the Guion Farm parking lots. The Trails Committee provided a banner at each location announcing the National Trails Day celebration, a photo album of before and after pictures of the trails that had been rehabilitated through volunteer efforts or funding by FODF and IMBA and a handout describing FODF's accomplishments. We passed out ice cold water, sold maps, accepted donations and signed up new members; but mostly we talked to forest users about what each of us can do to protect and make DuPont Forest even better. The banners and albums can be reused and the lessons learned will be the foundation of our efforts to improve the celebrations for many National Trails Days to come.



Greetings! Welcome to the Friends of DuPont Forest newsletter. This is our first issue since our annual meeting in April when I was elected as your president.

FODF was founded in January 2001 as the successor to Friends of the Falls, a small group of 21 individuals that served as the catalyst for encouraging the state to acquire the 2200 acres that form the center of the forest. This center, containing Lake Julia, Bridle Veil Falls, High Falls and Triple Falls, makes up what has become the most visited forest (and probably park as well) in the state. Because we have six parking lots, several with wide entrances, surrounding the perimeter of our 10,300-acre forest, we do not have an accurate way of determining counts of visitors. One count, based on samplings of the parking lots has visitor count for 2005 projected at over 130,000, but many feel the real counts could be twice this number.

This many visitors, increasingly tourists from beyond the immediate area, add greatly to the economic impact to our surrounding communities. All trails are open to hikers, trail bikes and equestrians. Fishing and hunting are also permitted according to Wildlife Rules and Regulations. The heavy use, of course, adds to the wear and tear on the forest community of 80 miles of trails, facilities, and the environment. The forest staff is made up of eight employees. The staff is very hard working and FODF is proud of the relationship we maintain with them. However, maintaining the forest as a safe and enjoyable destination for all of our families is much more than eight employees operating with limited state funding can accomplish by themselves.

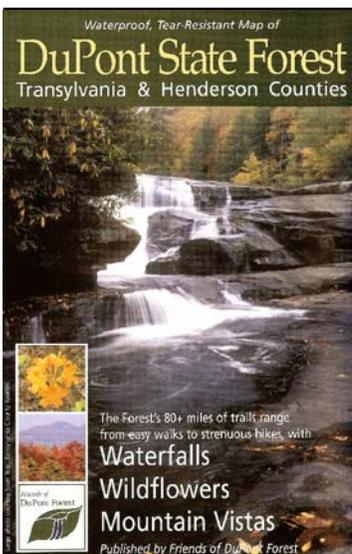
Some of the items FODF has directly funded with your donations this year are the new High Falls shelter and the reroutes of Mine Mountain and Reasonover Creek trails. We have also agreed to fund a contract to build steps at Triple Falls to go from the shelter area down to the middle falls. This trail (a really steep path) receives very heavy usage and has badly eroded and needs major rebuilding. We hope the contract for this effort will be late this fall.

Helping with the maintenance of the forest and to provide a safe and enjoyable experience for all of our visitors is the purpose of FODF. FODF is made up of persons who love the land, the waterfalls and the majesty of the outdoors of our beautiful area of the mountains. We invite you to be a part of FODF with your membership and volunteer services. We have many volunteer opportunities that include working with the staff on trails and buildings, helping with FODF sponsored events, greeting visitors at the parking lot shelters, leading hikes and staffing booths at Brevard and Hendersonville street events. What we've found is that it's really fun to exercise a bit of 'ownership feelings' of pride in this wonderful haven that's Dupont State Forest.

We will have our next 'members' event on September 10 at Lake Julia. We'll have canoes and rides back to the lake. Bring a picnic and spend the day in a canoe on the lake and enjoy the fun of fellowship and picnicking on the shore. This will be our third annual canoe event.

Also on October 8-9, we will again sponsor the Tour de Falls. This event is open to all but really directed to those that can't hike the distances back to the three major waterfalls and Lake Julia. We'll have several handicap friendly vans traveling the 10-mile route. Folks will be able to get off at any of the four stops and spend as much time as they like. When we had the similar Tour de Falls on Mother's Day weekend we had over 660 guests. This requires a lot of volunteers to host the event. Would you consider helping with the October 8-9 Tour? It'll be fun for you to be a part of the effort, but most of all to see the happiness we bring our guests. We need about 30 volunteers for each day. Come and be part of this effort. Just go to our web site and click on contacts and my name or Gloria's, our VP and volunteer coordinator. You can also reach us at our PO Box or call me at 862-5618. We invite you to become involved.

All of our FODF Board meetings are open. Our next meeting is on September 27 at Guion Farms at 7 P.M. You are welcome to attend. Be a "Friend of DuPont Forest".



Map Facts

I began mailing maps to people who purchase them through PayPal, an internet payment service, in October 2003. In less than 2 years, I have mailed over 420 maps to internet purchase requests. Most maps are sent to people living in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida & Virginia. We also sent maps to people living in Ohio, Michigan, Delaware, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, California, Kentucky, Illinois, Alabama & Washington DC. We have even mailed maps internationally to Belfast, Ontario, and Manila.

The Friends of DuPont Forest have made purchasing a map of the forest very easy. Along with purchasing maps over the internet on www.dupontforest.com, there are over 25 different local outfitters, campgrounds, book stores & visitor centers within a 60 mile radius of the forest that sell maps. Volunteers in the forest and parking lot attendants sell maps on the weekends and people may also call (828) 885-2102.

Bonnie Bomba, FODF Volunteer

Tour de Falls

Friends of DuPont Forest will again sponsor the annual Tour de Falls on Saturday October 8 and Sunday October 9, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Leaving from the Buck Forest parking lot off Staton Road in Cedar Mountain, vans will allow the public and their families and friends a chance to visit High falls, Triple Falls, Bridal Veil Falls and Lake Julia. Visitors boarding specially equipped vans that have low entry steps, high ceilings and handicap railings will be transported through a seasonal fairyland to see Triple Falls, High Falls and on into the interior of the forest past the horse barn and pastures to Bridle Veil Falls.

Leaving Bridal Veil Falls, the vans will take visitors to Lake Julia, the 100-acre lake sitting on top of the mountains surrounded by laurel and rhododendron, where light refreshments will be served in the rustic Lodge. The round trip tour of about 10 miles passes over a covered bridge and through beautiful forest areas before returning to the Buck Forest gate. At each stop visitors are encouraged to depart the van and enjoy the surrounding area by bringing a picnic lunch to enjoy at one of the shelters, hike, or just sit on a rock to take in the beauty of autumn leaves and rushing streams. Vans will be circulating every 15 minutes. FODF will have volunteer members at each stop to assist visitors where needed and to explain nearby viewing areas.

Friends of DuPont Forest is a non-profit corporation that assists the Forest Service with over-all maintenance of the 10,600 acres and works to have the forest be accessible by all user groups. The Tour de Falls weekends have been designed to provide fun days especially for families and for those that can't hike the distances to see the beauty of the season and the most spectacular waterfalls in the southeast. At the most recent Tour de Falls held in May, over 660 van riders participated in this semi-annual, weekend event. A donation of only \$10 per person, per day, is requested. Plan to spend as much of the day as you can. If you have any questions contact the FODF web site at www.dupontforest.com or call 862-5618 or 884-2006.

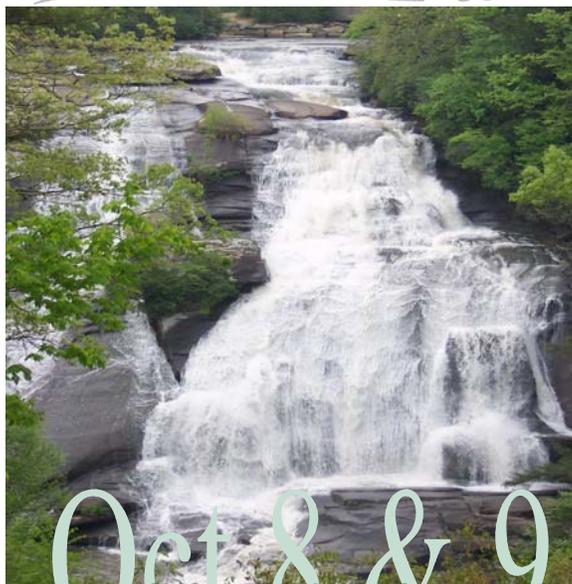


Friends of
DuPont Forest



Invites you to

Tour de Falls



Oct 8 & 9
Oct 8 & 9

Handicapped accessible shuttle vans will leave from the Buck Forest parking lot on Staton Road between 9 am and 4 pm. Vans will visit Triple Falls, High Falls, Bridal Veil Falls and Lake Julia. Bring a picnic lunch if you like and enjoy the beauty of DuPont Forest. See www.dupontforest.com for directions or call 828-862-5618 or 828-884-2006 for more information.

Clip & Save



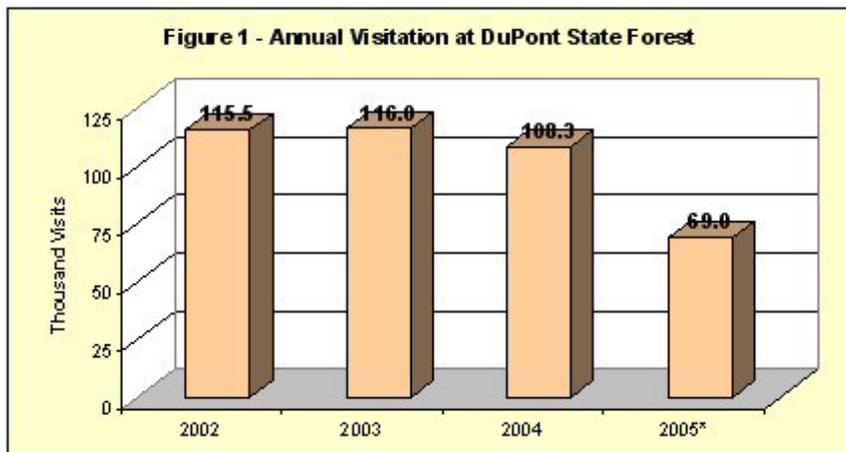
News About the Forest

By David Brown, DSF Supervisor

Forest Visitation, January – June 2005 Sixty-nine thousand visits were made to DuPont State Forest during the first half of 2005. If this trend continues, visits for 2005 will total 138,000, a significant increase over 2004 visitation. See Figure-1.

Primary reason for visiting DuPont State Forest in 2005. (Studies taken from January 2005– June 2005).

- 32% - Waterfalls
- 28% - Hiking
- 20% - Mountain Biking
- 14% - Equestrian
- 6% - Other



* Data for January-June only

The average person spends a 1/2 day in the forest.



High Falls picnic shelter has been reconstructed using timber (except for the treated posts) harvested from the forest and milled on site. Concrete, metal roofing, treated timbers and miscellaneous hardware items were purchased by the state for \$2,870. FODF contributed \$1,000 toward the project with a grant from J.P. Morgan-Chase, Inc. Four new picnic tables are on order to go under the shelter. The shelter can be reserved for \$35. Our office hours are Monday– Friday from 8am-5pm. We always have rangers on duty, but they are not always in the office.

DuPont State Forest
PO Box 300
Cedar Mountain, NC 28718-300
Phone: (828) 877-6527

Lake Julia Canoe Event

by Gloria Clouse, FODF Vice President

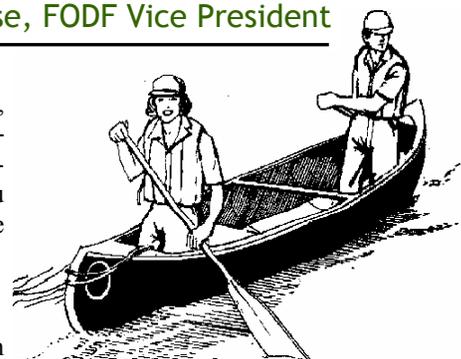
We are planning a **Friends of Dupont Forest Members** outing on **September 10, 2005**, 10 am to 4pm, at beautiful Lake Julia. We will have canoes available for members to enjoy and explore the lake. Lunch will be provided. Please join us for a day of fun and fellowship in a beautiful outdoor setting. If you have your own canoe or kayak that you would like to use, please let me know so we can make arrangements for you to get into the forest.

Directions to Fawn Lake parking lot on Reasonover Road.

If you are coming from **Brevard** on 276, turn left on Cascade Lake Road and then turn right onto Reasonover Road.

If you are coming from **Hendersonville** on Staton Road, go past Hooker Falls & Buck Forest parking lots until Staton Road ends at Cascade Lake Road. Turn left and go about 3 miles. Reasonover Road is on your left.

We will have someone at the gate at (10, 11, 12, 1, 2, and 3) and will shuttle or carpool people back to Lake Julia. It will be helpful for our planning to know how many are coming to “canoe day”. Please respond back to Gloria Clouse at 828-884-2006 or at volunteers@dupontforest.com if you plan to attend.



A Call For All Who Loathe Litter !!!

by Peg Bresnahan, FODF Board Member

Tuesday, September 20th at 9 A.M. we will meet at the Hooker Falls parking lot to conduct our Adopt A Highway project. We will collect trash from the intersection of Cascade Lake Road and Staton Road back to the Hooker Falls parking lot. (If there are enough of us perhaps we can do more). At any rate we plan to be finished by noon.

Matt Cannizzio will shuttle volunteers to and from their starting points. We will be walking down hill. Matt will provide the orange bags and vests from the DOT. He suggests that we supply our own gloves since the ones DOT gave him are less than wonderful. Remember to wear sturdy shoes as the terrain is uneven. If you have a grabber or can borrow one it makes life easier.

Anyone willing and able to help please contact Peg Bresnahan at 884-6806 or e-mail pdbresnahan@citcom.net.

The job is unending and certainly not a glamorous volunteer opportunity but an important one to let our visitors and travelers know the FODF care.



VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Opportunities to Volunteer: Please read over the following descriptions and if you are interested or need more information, e-mail Gloria Clouse at volunteers@dupontforest.com

Parking Lot Hosts – We have had great success this summer with the parking lot hosts program. We plan to continue to have members in the shelter at Hooker Falls through October. We need hosts especially on Saturdays. We have two shifts, 10 am to 1 pm, and 1pm to 4pm. Please check your schedule and let me know when you can help.

Tour de Falls

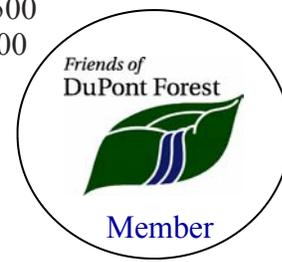
The Friends of Dupont Forest will again sponsor the Tour de Falls on October 9 and 10, 2005 from 9am to 5pm. Shuttle buses will be available to take visitors to Triple Falls, High Falls, Bridal Veil Falls and Lake Julia. The cost for the event is a \$10 donation per person. We will need members to help make the day possible. We need hosts at the falls, tour guides, map sales, and a variety of support roles. Please plan to join us and volunteer to help. There will be two shifts, 9am to 12:30pm and 12:30pm to 4pm. Let me know which day(s) and time(s) you will be available.

Hope you will join us at Lake Julia on September 10th.

Join or Renew Now

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (1 Year) \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Hooker Falls Contributor (1 Year) \$ 250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend (1 Year) \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Triple Falls Contributor (1 Year) \$ 500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (1 Year) \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> High Falls Contributor (1 Year) \$1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Partner (1 Year) \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Angel (1 Year) \$1001+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter (1 Year) \$100 | |

Mail this form to: **Friends of DuPont Forest**
P.O. Box 2107
Brevard, NC 28712



Membership Decal

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State, ZIP _____
Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Receive a special Friends of DuPont Forest decal & a Map of DuPont Forest when you renew your membership with FODF. Renewals at the \$50 Level or higher will receive a FODF t-shirt. (indicate size)

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 10, 2005	Trails Committee Meeting
September 10, 2005	Canoe Outing on Lake Julia
September 20, 2005	Adopt-a-Hwy, Hooker Falls Parking Lot
September 27, 2005	Friends of DuPont Forest Board Meeting
October 8-9, 2005	Tour de Falls, Buck Forest Parking Lot
November 29, 2005	Friends of DuPont Forest Board Meeting
December 17, 2005	DuPont State Forest 5th Anniversary, TBA

Keep up to date with more events sponsored by the Friends of DuPont Forest by going to
www.dupontforest.com



Friends of DuPont Forest
P.O. Box 2107
Brevard, NC 28712

First Class
Stamp Here

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Terry Barham
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