



The Little River Watermark

Membership Newsletter for Friends of DuPont Forest

December 2005

President's Corner

Dick Thompson, FODF President

We are coming up on the FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY of the acquisition of the 2200-acre center portion of DuPont State Forest. Holding and event at Triple Falls has a special significance because that is the first trail the volunteers worked on to open the forest for public viewing just five years ago. Volunteers got together to repair the trail, dig frozen dirt and carry stones for steps leading from Staton Road to the trail and from the shelter to the falls.

FODF has accomplished quite a number of things during these last five years. One of the biggest accomplishments has been to foster a working relationship with the Forest Service and other user groups. This 'collaboration' allowed for more total effort being expended. The end result was the improvement and preservation of the forest for all users. David Brown and his Forest Service staff have been a pleasure to work with and have contributed so very much to provide for both preservation and visitor services.

Clearly, the forest is state owned and managed; however except for David and his staff, the state has not provided the funding for capital improvements that are needed.

The state has, with the State Parks Act, a funding source for State Parks but has elected to have these funds not be available for Dupont Forest because it is in the Forest Service jurisdiction. This is not fair because with the wonderful attractions 'our forest' has to offer the public and the very large number of visitors we have DSF should receive funds for needed capital improvements.

To fill this void the different user groups that worked so hard to bring DSF into existence have had to follow with work for its preservation and improvement. As a result we really feel that it is the peoples forest, 'our forest'. We work to maintain it as the 'peoples' forest and feel an unusual sense of 'ownership' and pride in what we have done. Generally FODF has been in the leadership role for forest events and their funding. However, other user groups and organizations have also contributed so very much, these include the Pisgah Trail Blazers, Blue Ridge Bicycle Club, Boy Scouts, IMBA, Trail Dynamics, and many others.

On the following page, you will find a partial listing of accomplishments made by the Friends of DuPont Forest during the last five years.



Original members of Friends of the Falls
Picture courtesy of Jeff Jennings, FODF Charter President



President's Corner Continued...

1. FODF successfully lobbied for funding for the Visitors Center-The state has now allocated \$200,000 (it had to be hidden in the DOT budget) to get started on the project in 2006. The full project is estimated at 3 times this amount but this money will get us started. This will be the log structure off the Buck Forest parking lot. The effort was greatly aided by our persistence in getting a permanent roof installed to preserve the building for the upcoming construction effort.
2. FODF funded the reroute and rebuilding of four trails at a cost of over \$30,000. These were Laurel Ridge, Corn Mills Shoals, Reasonover Creek and Mine Mountain Trails. In addition we are now in the planning stage to have the Jim Branch and Briery Creek Trails rebuilt in 2006.
3. FODF has approved the funding needed to rebuild the trail at Triple Falls that leads down from the overlook. This work will be contracted and should get underway in 2006.
4. FODF initiated, funded and assisted in the building of rain shelters at both the Hooker Falls and Buck Forest parking lots.
5. FODF provided over 8000 hours of volunteer labor in maintaining trails, litter pickup on Staton Road, building picnic tables, greeting visitors in the parking lots and so many added projects.
6. FODF provided funding for and assisted in the building of new picnic shelters at High Falls and Lake Dense.
7. FODF organized, managed and staffed six weekend van tours to the 3 main waterfalls and Lake Julia. These 10 mile guided tours provided a chance for over 3,500, mostly elderly, people to enjoy a relaxing day into the interior of the forest. We believe the eldest of these was a 97 year-old lady that came on this past Mother's Day.
8. FODF initiated and managed the first annual Blue Ghost Firefly Festival this past June. This is anticipated to become a major, very unique, event each year.
9. FODF has lobbied for the state to build a pedestrian bridge over Little River at Hooker Falls to avoid having 60-70,000 people a year cross the busy highway bridge. FODF will kick start this project by funding the design work for this bridge in 2006 and use this to intensify our lobby efforts to get the state to build this bridge.
10. FODF designed, built and maintains a web site that provides maps, directions, event information and a communications source for all information concerning DuPont State Forest. Check us out at www.dupontforest.com.
11. FODF designed, funded and published Dupont Forest site maps starting in year 1998. These are now in their sixth edition, each with major improvements. They are now sold in area Chambers of Commerce and Visitors Centers as well as in 33 outdoor oriented stores from Franklin to Raleigh, NC and in upstate South Carolina.
12. FODF successfully lobbied against DOT's paving Sky Valley Road as it passes through DSF. Doing this, preserved the rural character of the road, protected wildlife crossings and connecting trail access points.
13. The Bill Devendorf Bridge over Reasonover Creek has just been completed. FODF arranged for the funding and provided volunteer labor to assist the Forest Service in building this very attractive pedestrian and bikers bridge over this wide creek crossing.
14. FODF has conducted several member events, including volunteer training and family canoe outings at Lake Julia.

By our collectively working together to maintain and rebuild trails and related facilities we make DuPont Forest available to others. And who are these others? Well, let's just list a few: Hendersonville YMCA sponsored marathons, Hendersonville Tobacco Free for Life Bike event, family reunion and church groups that can now rent a picnic shelter for outings, Boy Scout camp outings, National Guard and Area Rescue unit training sites, outdoor experiences for area summer camp attendees AND a pleasurable outdoor experience for an estimated one million visitors since the forests inception.

Does this sound like we (you) are proud of "our forest" and what FODF is contributing to its preservation and maintenance? You bet it does, and we're proud of each and every one of you FODF members and what you and the other volunteer groups contribute to Dupont Forest. Come out December 17 and CELEBRATE what has been accomplished sign up to make 2006 be a year to be proud of. We can do so much more by all working together.



Friends of DuPont Forest

Invite you to

'Celebrate'

*The 5th Anniversary of the opening to the public,
An additional 2200 acres of DuPont Forest,
Beginning with the New Triple Falls Trail*

Saturday December 17, 2005

1-m-3pm

Triple Falls Shelter

Program starts at 2pm
Coffee, Hot Cider & Celebration Cake

Rain, Snow or Shine. Shuttles for those not wishing to hike in,
meet at the Buck Forest Parking Area. Shuttles will leave at
1pm, 1:30pm & 1:45pm.

Reflections

By Tony Nelson, DuPont Forest Staff

The land is its own master
And a temple to its Maker
And needs no owner or tender
If left to its own miraculous ways,
But a defender of the birdsongs
Must now hold back the masses
Who would love to death its beauties
Thoughtlessly mar its holiness,
Bring about its inclusion in the destruction
Of our nations forest heritages
Coke can in the river,
Footprint on the flower,
Oil slick on the lake.

A war is brewing
And the land is the battle ground
You need only look around you
To see the scars men have left
Before rolling into their graves
To feed the grasses
The earth is all that lasts
Though the money-men speak of owning it,
It is the earth that owns us
For all our flesh is earth,
And all the beings are relatives fashioned by the same hands,
And all our cloudy thoughts, are the sky...

Move A Mountain Day

Twenty-four new students and two professors at Brevard College performed trail maintenance on the Rocky Ridge trail as part of the college's Move-A-Mountain Day. This event is an annual community service program conducted by the college. The program provides welcome support and resources to a large variety of community organizations and is designed to assist the students in adapting to their new location. While the students didn't exactly move the mountain, they did manage to relocate a significant amount of dirt, debris, sand and brush to improve the drainage and clearances on the trail. This is the second year that the Brevard students have worked in the forest. The activities were expanded this year to encompass two groups of students as a co-operative effort with the Forest Service staff and Friends of DuPont Forest. Roberta Belcher coordinated the event for the Forest Service. FODF participants were John Carney, Tom Fortener & John Reiff.

John Carney, FODF Board Member

College performed trail maintenance on the Rocky Ridge trail as part of the college's Move-A-Mountain Day. This event is an annual community service program



Do you have a story, picture, activity, article about the DuPont State Forest or the Friends of DuPont Forest Volunteers you would like to share with other members? We are always looking to spread the word about the happenings in the Forest. Send information to nancyblack@dupontforest.com.

Thank you to Parking Lot Hosts

Our parking lot hosts program started on May 14, 2005 and ran through October 30, 2005. Greeters staffed the kiosks at Hooker Falls and Buck Forest on weekends and holidays when volunteers were available. During that time, the parking lot hosts sold over \$4000 worth of maps. Donations in the parking lots amounted to about \$1,300. Special thanks to Chris and Mary Jane McDonnell who staffed the Hooker Falls and Buck Forest parking lots every Sunday. Also, thanks to Bruce and Gretl Smith who worked at Hooker Falls the first Saturday of every month.

We also appreciate all the other volunteers who helped during this season. We look forward to having even more shifts covered in 2006. Anyone interested in being a parking lot volunteer should contact Gloria, Clouse at volunteers@dupontforest.com



2005 Parking Lot Hosts

James Baldwin, Dick & Joyce Bennett, Peg Bresnahan, Claire Brown, Gloria Clouse, Tina Duncan, Becky & Chuck Elston, Tom Fortener, Dick & Dinora Kranker, Grady & Louise Morgan, Tom & Bev Parlier, Aleen Steinberg, Dick Thompson, Ellie Thrush, Tanne & Tom Traywick, Meg Yeaman, Camille Zeigler and members of the Pisgah Trailblazers.

The old saying is “It takes a village...” and at DuPont Forest it takes a lot of volunteers to carry out the mission of the Friends of DuPont Forest. This year volunteers donated their time greeting visitors as parking lot hosts, working at the Tour de Falls, promoting National Trail day, and picking up litter along Staten Road. A small group of volunteers worked with the rangers every Tuesday doing maintenance and trail work. Some volunteers worked in the Ranger Office, helped distribute FODF maps, and gathered information for a History of DuPont project. As an organization, we are always in need of people with special talents in public relations, grant writing, computer skills, and any other talents you can share. If you have 4 hours or 4 days or anything in between, and you are interested in volunteering for Friends of DuPont Forest, we can find a job for you. Call Gloria Clouse at 884-2006 or email volunteers@dupontforest.com

Canoe Day 2005



Over 50 members of FODF enjoyed canoeing on lovely Lake Julia on September 11, 2005. Canoes were provided by Falling Creek Camp for Boys and Camp High Rocks. A picnic lunch was provided. Pictured are members of the planning committee, Bonnie Bomba (with Bruno), Dick Thompson, Gloria Clouse, Dan and Peg Bresnahan.

Photo provided by Sarah Sneed.

Little River Update

by John Carney, FODF Board Member

Last October, the Little River in the DuPont State Forest received the first of several trout stockings under the Delayed Harvest Program. Since that time, teams composed of NC Forest Service and NC Wildlife Resources Commission personnel and members of the Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited have worked hand-in hand to distribute fish in all areas of the river. Stocking the Little River is an enjoyable and rewarding activity but it does require a serious effort due to the varieties of terrain and accessibility encountered in the forest. In making their treks to their new homes, some of the trout may be delivered directly from the hatchery tanker while others may make longer runs over the trails via an off-road vehicle. For many, there are numerous places where shanks' ponies and bushwhacking are the only way to get the fish into prime waters. The stocking teams have done a great job in meeting these special challenges.

Reports by Forest Service personnel and fishermen on the river indicate that the Delayed Harvest program has been a real success in its first year. The program is continuing in 2006 and stocking will commence again in early October. On a related note, efforts were made during the year to improve access to the river and reduce sediment when possible. These are ongoing activities but have been especially important this year in offsetting the watershed damage brought on by the tropical storms in 2004.



Membership Report

In the past five years, Friends of DuPont Forest has grown to over 300 members. The majority of our members are from North and South Carolina but we have members in Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and one member in Ontario, Canada. We are also constantly updating our membership base with the most current member information available. We need your help. If you have a new address, e-mail or phone number, please let us know at membership@dupontforest.com. We are also interested to know if you would prefer to receive your newsletter via Postal Service or E-mail.

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



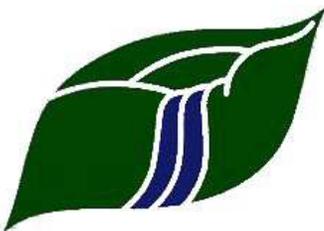
Name _____ Address _____ Membership Decal
City _____ State, ZIP _____
Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

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)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| December 17, 2005 | Anniversary Event—High Falls Picnic Shelter, 1-3pm |
| December 18, 2005 | Winter Solace Hike—Hooker Falls Parking Lot, 7pm (sponsored by ECO) |
| January 7, 2006 | Board Retreat— Lake Julia 9am |
| March 28, 2006 | Board Meeting—Guion Farm 7pm |
| April 26, 2006 | Friends of DuPont Annual Meeting—TBA |
| May 13 & 14, 2006 | Tour de Falls—Buck Forest Parking Lot (Mothers Day Weekend) |
| May 20, 2006 | Volunteer Appreciation Day—Lake Imaging |
| May 30, 2006 | Board Meeting—Guion Farm 7pm |
| June 1&2, 2006 | Blue Ghost Firefly Festival—Buck Forest Parking Lot |
| June 3, 2006 | National Trails Day—TBA |
| July 25, 2006 | Board Meeting—Guion Farm 7pm |
| August 26, 2006 | Member Appreciation Day—Canoeing on Lake Julia |
| Sept 26, 2006 | Board Meeting—Guion Farm 7pm |
| October 21 & 22, 2006 | Tour de Falls—Buck Forest Parking Lot |
| November 28, 2006 | Board Meeting—Guion Farm 7pm |

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

FODF Board of Directors

Dick Thompson, President
Gloria Clouse, Vice President
Rella Allred, Secretary
Chris McDonnell, Treasurer
Terry Barham
Nancy Black
Peg Bresnahan
John Carney
Chuck Cordray
Tom Fortener
Seth Harrison
Jeff Jennings
Mary Jo Padgett
Bev Parlier
Jim Plick
Sandy Schenk
Aleen Steinberg

**The Friends of DuPont Forest
would like to wish you and your family a
Happy, Healthy New Year!**