



# The Little River Watermark

Membership Newsletter for Friends of DuPont Forest

February 2007

## “Great Beginnings”



“Ice Storm on Lake Julia”  
Picture Courtesy of David Brown

### President’s Corner

Gloria Clouse, FODF President

2007 promises to be a great year for the Friends of DuPont forest. We have several new member events planned and several projects in the works.

**ANNUAL RETREAT** Our annual board retreat was held on January 13<sup>th</sup> at Lake Julia. We had four interesting and informative presenters. John Carney has been working on gathering the history of DuPont Forest for the past two years. He shared some of his research with the board. *(John will present a program for all interested persons on February 27<sup>th</sup> at the Transylvania Library at 1:00 pm).* New board member, Tom Fanslow of Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy shared the benefits of donating and protecting lands. There are new tax laws that increase the tax credits during 2007. *(If you are interested in knowing more about these benefits, contact Tom at [tom@carolinamountain.org](mailto:tom@carolinamountain.org))* Patrick Horan gave an informative talk about his success with saving hemlocks from hemlock wooly adelgid (HWA) by releasing *Sasajiscymnus tsugae* beetles, also known as “sassie” beetles. Patrick has offered to donate 2000 beetles as part of a coordinated effort in DuPont Forest to attack the HWA. A plan is being developed with the cooperation of the forest service to chemically treat some trees systemically, to use fungicidal spray on some trees and release “Sassie” beetles in other areas. FODF is dedicated to helping with this project and will use volunteers to release beetles and to monitor the results of each application. We appreciate Professor Horan’s interest in DuPont. David Brown, forest superintendent, concluded the meeting with a detailed plan of trail work planned for 2007. Some trails will be paid for by a \$49,000 grant. FODF budgeted \$25,000 to complete other trails and projects. *(David will present the complete list at the Annual Friends of DuPont Meeting on May 2, 2007 at the Hendersonville Library at 7:00pm)*

**DONATION** We would like to thank Blue Moon of Pinnacle Peak for a \$10,000 donation to the Friends of DuPont Forest. Alan Rieger presented the check to us in January. We appreciate their interest in DuPont Forest.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS** If you look at the 2007 events on page 6 of this newsletter, you will see that we have planned several hikes and events throughout the year. I hope to meet more of you this year. Mark your calendar with the dates now and watch for more details on the website [www.dupontforest.com](http://www.dupontforest.com).

*Gloria Clouse, Friends of DuPont Forest President*

## 2007 Friends of DuPont Forest Board Retreat



Picture Courtesy of David Brown

Front: Tom Fortener, Chris McDonnell, Jeff Jennings, Aleen Steinberg, Peg Bresnahan, Rella Allred, Mary Jo Padgett  
Back: Chuck Cordray, Jim Plick, Nancy Black, Gloria Clouse, Tom Fanslow, John Carney, Bev Parlier, Seth Harrison  
Missing from picture: Gwen Hill, Sandy Schenk, Lynn Harton, Lydia O'Dell & Karen Cutright

### **Youth Bike Safety & Ride February 24, 2007 Guion Farm Shelter, 10am**

Hey kids!! Did you get a mountain bike for Christmas and are wondering how to care for it and safely ride trails??? Then bring your bike and helmet and come to Guion Farm shelter on Feb.24 at 10:00 AM. FODF members Tom and Bev Parlier, who are avid mountain bikers will show you basic maintenance and how to properly ride trails. How do you negotiate roots? rocks? mud? creeks? other trail users? Come find out as we ride trails in the Flatwoods area of DuPont. To register please call 828-883-9278 or E-mail [rokclmbr1@yahoo.com](mailto:rokclmbr1@yahoo.com).



Picture Courtesy of Bev Parlier

## In Praise of Litter 'Haters'

By Peg Bresnahan, FODF Board Member

The litter sweep on January 27, 2007 proved to be a spectacular success owing to the combined efforts of the Friends Of Dupont Forest and the Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy. Almost fifty volunteers came out and assaulted not only FODF's Adopt-A-Highway that extends from the corner of Cascade Lake and Staton Roads to the Hooker Falls parking lot, but they continued on to Sky Valley Road, covering Sky Valley for more than three miles. Another group began at Highway 276 and cleared Cascade Lake Road passing the Corn Mill Shoals parking lot, on to where Cascade meets Staton Road.

Three stalwarts started at the corner of Cascade Lake Road and picked up the litter on both sides of Reasonover Road, stopping when they reached the end at the Blue Ridge Baptist Church. Six volunteers from Asheville took on Pinnacle Mountain Road. They began at the Blue Ridge Baptist Church and hiked up hill for three miles collecting everything except the abandoned appliances that wouldn't fit into their orange bags.

Many were old hands at picking up litter. They arrived with 'grabbers' and vests. One wheeled a cart outfitted with one place for an open bag and another to store spare bags, a water bottle and essentials. A few of the couples had adopted highways of their own but still found time to help FODF. There were AmeriCorps students and students from middle school and high school who came to earn community service points. Unusual finds included a vacuum cleaner dragged out of the woods by its hose, (that disappeared before pick-up the next day), an animal skull with sharp incisors and a deer antler.

The final bag count was ninety-six bags. It took the DOT three truckloads to haul them away. Despite the fact the event was scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. and end at noon, volunteers could still be seen hauling orange bags along the roads at 1:30. The overwhelming turnout for this event can be attributed to an increasing awareness and dedication by those who care enough to keep our roadsides beautiful. A sunny January morning in the mountains proved an added incentive. Thanks to all who participated.

The next pick-up is scheduled for Saturday May 5, 2007. Keep your eyes and ears open for specific information as the date approaches. Additional litter pick ups will be held on May 5, July 14, and October 16.



Pictures courtesy of Ayers Christ

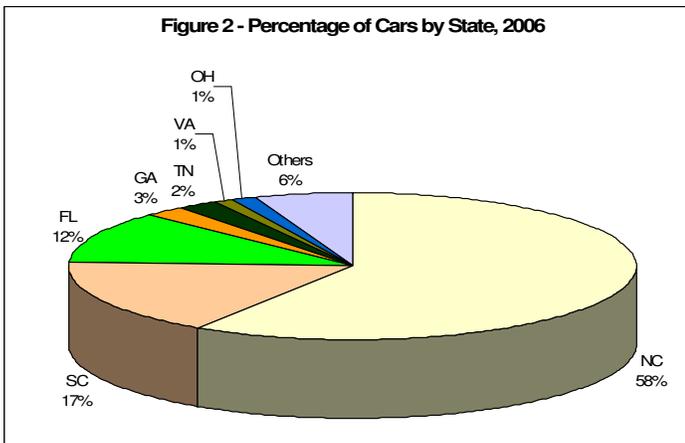
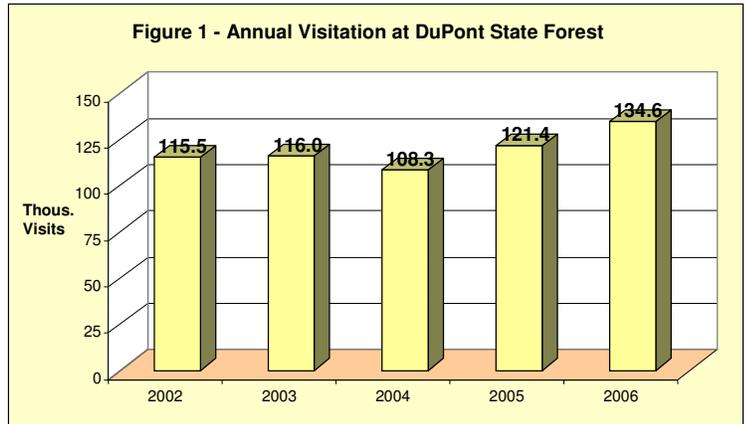


# Annual DSF Report - 2006

By David Brown, DSF Supervisor

Most people visit the forest to see the waterfalls, take a hike or ride a mountain bike. Horse back riding and dog walking continue to be popular activities. Fishing and trail running have increased in the past couple of years. Other forest uses include orienteering, hunting by permit, picnics, geocache\*, photography, wading and swimming. There have been occasional horse drawn carriage rides, and a llama pack trail is planned for 2007.

ATVs, dirt bikes and other motorized vehicles are not allowed in the forest. Dogs must be on a leash at all times. Special use permits are required for meetings, ceremonies, rock climbing and athletic events.



**Forest Visitation for 2006** – Annual visitation increased from 121,400 in 2005 to 134,600 in 2006, an increase of 13,200 visits. Since 2002 the forest has averaged 119,200 visits per year. See Figure-1. These visitors continue to come from all over the country, but most are from the Southeast. During 2006, 58% of the visitors were from North Carolina, 17% from South Carolina, 11% from Florida, 3% from Georgia and 2% from Tennessee. The remaining 8% came from Virginia, Ohio and several states. See Figure-2

**Volunteer Service** – Preliminary data for 2006 indicates a total of over 4,500 hours of volunteer service during the year. The value of this service at \$12 per hour is over \$54,000. Volunteers working directly with DSF staff put in about 2,000 hours. Friends of DuPont Forest (FODF) volunteered over 1,500 hours. Pisgah Trail Blazers volunteered over 1,000 hours. Other groups and organizations that have volunteered time include 4-H clubs, Boy Scouts, colleges, summer camps, campgrounds, Trout Unlimited and Trail Dynamics.

**Forest Staffing** – DuPont State Forest (DSF) was fully staffed with eight personnel through out the year, except for fire assignments in North Carolina and western states. Office hours are Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The phone number is (828) 877-6527. Rangers are on duty seven days a week year round, but are not always in the office, especially on weekends.

There was a 3-acre fire in DSF on April 15, 2006. The fire on Sky Valley Road was quickly controlled by DSF and Henderson County rangers and the Valley Hill VFD. Bonnie Bomba volunteers in the office most Wednesdays. She answers the phone and does typing and filing. Aleen Steinberg helped in the office on several Fridays during the year. John Reiff and Steve Biesecker are regular volunteers on Tuesdays. They have helped with a number of trail and facility projects. Bill Devendorf made an encore appearance at DSF, and volunteered for 876 hours during the first half of the year. Chris McDonnell and Lynn Harton also logged lots of volunteer hours in support of forest activities.

**Facilities** – Triple Falls picnic shelter was reconstructed last spring using the same design as the High Falls Shelter. DSF staff and volunteers did the construction. FODF paid for the concrete needed for this project as well as the cost of materials and logistical support for the Triple Falls steps. FODF also purchased materials for the new picnic tables placed in the Triple Falls Shelter. DSF staff and volunteers constructed a locust rail fence around the new shelter.

The architect has completed plans to stabilize the log building to be used as a visitor center. We hope the appropriation of \$250,000 over two years will be enough to complete the main floor of the building and build public restrooms. There will not be funds to complete the basement or construct additional parking.

\*geocache: An outdoor treasure hunt using Global Positioning System (GPS)

**Annual Report Cont...**

FODF purchased materials to construct a viewing platform near Bridal Veil Falls Road to compliment the recently completed trail work going to the base of the falls. We hope to use volunteers from Western Piedmont Community College to do the construction. Fawn Lake pier and the small pier at the end of Lake Julia Road will be rebuilt in 2007.

**Road and Trail Projects** – Progress has been made in grading and drainage work on primary forest roads. Improvements to Thomas Cemetery Road and Tarklin Branch Road are almost complete. Routine road maintenance continues on primary forest roads. Numerous trails had vegetation cut back and minor repairs completed by volunteer work crews. Contract work was completed on Briery Fork, Jim Branch, Bridal Veil and Corn Mill Shoals Trails. FODF funded the contract work with the help of an Adopt-A-Trail Grant.

**Reservations, Special Events and Facilities Use**  
 During 2006 1,390 people used DSF picnic shelters through the reservations system, and thousands more used them on a first come first served basis. Vehicle permits for the disabled allowed 350 people in to see the waterfalls.

FODF conducted two Tour de Falls last year. The best turnout was in October when 830 people participated in the tour over two days. FODF also conducted a blue ghost firefly tour for members and guests in the spring.

The Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education conducted fly casting clinics and kids fishing days at Lake Imaging. Trout Unlimited also hosted a kids' fishing day. The Carolina Orienteering Klubb held two orienteering events that drew about 450 participants.

Running has become a popular activity at DSF. The Hendersonville YMCA conducted a trails marathon in October that was very successful with about 300 participants. Jus' Running held a trail run last March with all the proceeds going to FODF. Brevard Running Camp used forest trails during the summer.

Over 350 people attended meetings at one of the forest facilities, and training sessions were conducted for 238 individuals. Training was conducted by DFR, National Guard, USAF, NCHILERT, Henderson County and the Transylvania County Sheriffs Department.

Total participation for the above activities was 6,446 people. Most of these forest users were not included in our regular parking lot counts to determine visitation.

**David R. Brown, Forest Supervisor**  
**DuPont State Forest**  
**PO Box 300**  
**Cedar Mountain, NC 28718-0300**  
**Phone: (828) 877-6527**  
**January 31, 2007**



**New Bridal Veil Falls Trail**

Photo courtesy of David Brown

**Summary of Road and Trail Construction for 2006**

Road or Trail	Work Completed	By
TRIPLE FALLS TRAIL	Graded and spread gravel	DFR*
TRIPLE FALLS SPUR	Trail rebuilt from shelter to viewing area. Steps constructed to middle of falls.	DFR/ Volunteers
BRIERY FORK TRAIL	Trail reroute completed, stream crossing repaired, broad based dips repaired	Contractor/ DFR/ Vol
JIM BRANCH TRAIL	Major reroute constructed, lower end of trail stabilized	Contractor/ Volunteers
HOOKER FALLS ROAD	Road to base of falls repaired	DFR
BRIDAL VEIL FALLS RD	Trail reroute completed from end of road to base of falls	Contractor/ DFR
CORN MILL SHOALS TR	Trail reroute completed near intersection with Bridal Veil Falls Road	Contractor
LAKE JULIA ROAD	Graded and culvert replaced	DFR
CONSERVATION ROAD	Gate at Reasonover Rd. moved back from highway	DFR
HOLLY ROAD	Culverts installed, rough grading completed and some gravel spread	DFR
SHORTCUT TRAIL	Reconstructed and upgraded to primary forest road	DFR
THOMAS CEMETERY RD	Installed teracer in wet area, rebuilt broad based dips, graded and spread gravel	DFR

\* NC Division of Forest Resources

**Summary of reservations, permits and facility use, 2006**

Activity	People
Shelter use by reservation	1,390
Access by disabled permit	350
Meeting attendees	356
Work project participants	369
Training session attendees	238
Special Event attendees	3,745
<b>Total participation</b>	<b>6,446</b>

# Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Contact	Phone
2/24/07	<b>Youth Bicycle Safety and Bike Ride</b> Meet at Guion Farms Shelter at 10 am for maintenance instruction and ride on youth bike trail	Bev Parlier	883-9278
2/27/07	<b>History of DuPont Forest</b> John Carney will present a report on the history project. Transylvania Co. Library 1 pm	John Carney	862-3886
3/10/07	<b>Geology Hike</b> Jim Reynolds will share knowledge of rock formations in DuPont. Meet at Buck Forest at 10 am	Aleen Steinberg	885-2477
3/27/07	<b>Friends of DuPont Board Meeting</b> Meet at 7 pm at Guion Farms	Gloria Clouse	884-2006
4/20/07	<b>Astronomy Night</b> View the skies and the Lyrid meteor showers at Guion Farms at 8:00 pm	Gloria Clouse	884-2006
4/28/07	<b>Wildflower Hike</b> Shirl Thomas will help us enjoy the beauty of DuPont's Wild Flowers Meet at Buck Forest at 10 AM	Peg Bresnahan	884-6806
5/2/07	<b>Annual Friends of DuPont Meeting</b> Meet at the Hendersonville Library at 7:00pm for yearly reports and Volunteer recognition	Chris McDonnell	692-2929
5/5/07	<b>Litter Pick-Up</b> Meet at Hooker Falls Parking Lot at 10 am. Help clean up the roadsides.	Peg Bresnahan	884-6806
5/12/07	<b>Tour de Falls</b>	Gloria Clouse	884-2006
5/13/07	<b>Tour de Falls</b> Shuttle Buses available to see 3 waterfalls and Lake Julia \$10 donation 9am to 4pm	Chris McDonnell	692-2929
5/19/07	<b>Volunteer Picnic</b> For Volunteers or those who want to learn more about volunteering. Lunch at Lake Imaging 11:30	Rella Allred	749-5626
5/26/27	<b>White Squirrel Festival</b>	Chris McDonnell	692-2929
5/27/07	<b>White Squirrel Festival</b> Information Booth and Map Sales at the Memorial Day festival in Brevard	Peg Bresnahan	884-6806
5/29/07	<b>Friends of DuPont Board Meeting</b> Meet at Guion Farms at 7 pm	Gloria Clouse	884-2006
5/31/07	<b>Blue Ghost Firefly Hike</b>	Aleen Steinberg	885-2477
6/1/07	<b>Blue Ghost Firefly Hike</b> Learn about these intriguing insects from Prof. Jennifer Frick Meet at Buck Forest at 9pm	Aleen Steinberg	885-2477
6/2/07	<b>National Trails Day</b> Become a supporter of some of the 80 miles of trails in DuPont Forest	Jim Plick	962-9675
6/30/07	<b>Photography Hike</b> Bring your camera and learn more how to photograph nature. Meet at Buck Forest at 10 am	Gloria Clouse	884-2006
7/14/07	<b>Litter Pick-Up</b> Meet at Hooker Falls Parking Lot at 10 am	Peg Bresnahan	884-6806
7/24/07	<b>FODF Board Meeting</b> Meet at Guion Farms	Gloria Clouse	884-2006
7/28/07	<b>Mushroom Hike</b> Find Mushroom and Fungi in the forest. Meet at Buck Forest at 10 am	Tom Fortener	884-3350
8/18/07	<b>FODF Canoe Day (Members Only)</b> Canoes and lunch provided for FODF members at Lake Julia. Meet at Fawn Lake Parking Lot	Bev Parlier	883-9278
9/29/07	<b>Fall Hike</b> Explore interesting areas of DuPont. Meet at Buck Forest Parking lot at 10 am	Bev Parlier	883-9278
10/6/07	<b>Litter Pick-Up</b> Meet at Hooker Falls Parking Lot at 10 am	Peg Bresnahan	884-6806
10/20/07	<b>Tour de Falls</b>	Chris McDonnell	692-2929
10/21/07	<b>Tour de Falls</b> Shuttle Buses available to see 3 waterfalls and Lake Julia \$10 donation	Gloria Clouse	884-2006
10/25/07	<b>Cemetery Hike</b> Experience a night hike by the full moon Meet at Hooker Falls Parking lot at 8pm	John Carney	862-3886
11/27/07	<b>FODF Board Meeting</b> Meet at Guion Farms at 7 pm	Gloria Clouse	884-2006

## The Summit Camps

The boys' and girls' camps which once operated in the forest are frequently referred to as Camp Summit. We have been advised that the correct name is The Summit Camps, but they were frequently referred to as Camp Summit, and, in fact, some of the camp literature used the name Camp Summit. The cost for a four-week camping period was \$520.00 in 1975. There were separate Boys and Girls Camps. Campers were not permitted to call home during their stay unless it was an emergency. The camps offered a number of outdoor recreation programs. Lake Julia was constructed for the camps and was used for a number of aquatic activities including water skiing and SCUBA training.

## Over the Falls

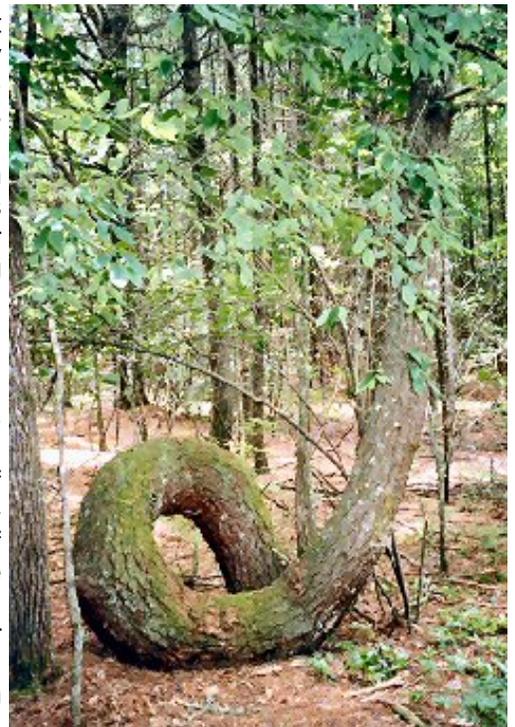
In the past, local residents, workers, campers and visitors to the forest used the ford at High Falls to cross the Little River on Buck Forest Road. This is the site of the present covered bridge. Depending upon the water conditions, these ventures were sometimes exciting events. One of those moments took place circa 1935 when a group of summer visitors made the trip to High Falls for their annual picnic. A member of this party, a boy about 12 years old, slipped and went over the falls when a group of children was making the crossing. The group rushed to the bottom of the falls and found the boy hanging on a rock near the bottom. He was taken to the hospital in Brevard and subsequently transported, in a full body cast, to his home in South Carolina. He fully recuperated from his tumble and became a successful businessman. High Falls has always been a popular spot for visitors to the forest. We have been told that many bathing suits and jeans were completely worn through sliding down the lower area of the falls. Campers at The Summit Camps used to have special bathing suits made up of several layers just for this purpose.

## Murder at Triple Falls

One of the unsolved mysteries of the forest is the murder of the Buck Forest Club Caretaker at Triple Falls. The caretaker was responsible for the property and also acted as the game warden. On the night of May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1947 the caretaker failed to return to his home and a search was started. His body was found at the base of Triple Falls. He had been shot with his own gun, a pistol. The reason for the shooting and the identity of the killer(s) are still unknown today. Some have speculated that he was killed by moon-shiners or perhaps poachers. The family lived on the property in a five-room house located near the present site of Lake Dense. The house and a nearby barn have long since disappeared. Members of the family still live in the area and have visited the forest since it became state property.

## Forest History Project

FODF has started work on researching the history of the forest and its residents. This is an ambitious-multifaceted program which, due to its very nature, will continue for the life of the forest. The ultimate goal will be the collection of informational resources and materials and development of educational programs for forest visitors. This effort is in the early stages and there is a lot of work to be done, or as one person expressed it, a myriad of mysteries to be solved, one at a time. Volunteer help would be appreciated. If you think you might be interested, please send an e-mail to [history@dupontforest.com](mailto:history@dupontforest.com) or call 828-862-3886 and leave a message. A short statement as to how you think you might contribute would be helpful. If you have historical information and materials (photos, documents, etc.) please let us know using the methods noted above.



'Snail Tree' Picture Courtesy of Bev Parlier

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## DuPont History Program

Why is there a chimney at the High Falls picnic shelter? Who is buried in the Thomas Cemetery? Why is there an airstrip in the middle of a forest? Who is Lake Julia named after?

John Carney, FODF board member, has been researching the history of DuPont State Forests. For the past three years, he has collected information from oral interviews, land records and newspaper articles. John will present a program with information he has gathered on **February 27, 2007 at 1:00pm at the Transylvania Library, 212 South Gaston Street in Brevard.** Please plan to attend. The meeting is open to all interested people. Invite a friend.

# Join or Renew Your Membership Now

## Membership

- Student** (1 Year) \$10
- Friend** (1 Year) \$25
- Family** (1 Year) \$35

*Donate at a level of \$50 or more, receive a free Friends of DuPont Forest T-shirt (M,L,XL only)*

- Partner** (1 Year) \$50
- Supporter** (1 Year) \$100
- Hooker Falls Contributor** (1 Year) \$ 250
- Triple Falls Contributor** (1 Year) \$ 500
- High Falls Contributor** (1 Year) \$1000
- Forest Angel** (1 Year) **\$1001+**
- Additional Donation** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Save the stamps.** Please E-mail my newsletter to the E-mail address listed below  
Mail this form to:

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print clearly)  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## Get Involved

I would like to volunteer my time for the advancement of Forest

- Trail Building & Work Crew
- Adopt-a-Hwy Litter Pick-Up
- Special Events (Tour de Falls, Canoe Day, etc)
- Special Forest Interest Programs
- Membership Services
- Parking Lot Greeters
- Grant Writing
- DuPont State Forest History Program
- Fundraising Efforts
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

*Receive a special Friends of  
DuPont Forest decal when  
you join or renew your  
membership with FODF*

### FODF Board of Directors

Gloria Clouse, President  
John Carney, Vice President  
Rella Allred, Secretary  
Chris McDonnell, Treasurer  
Nancy Black  
Peg Bresnahan  
Karen Cutright  
Chuck Corray  
Tom Fanslow  
Tom Fortner  
Seth Harrison  
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Jeff Jennings  
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Bev Parlier  
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Aleen Steinberg

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