



# The Little River Watermark

Membership Newsletter for Friends of DuPont Forest

Volume 10, Issue 1 March 2012

## President's Corner

Kent Wilcox, FODF President

Thanks to recent publicity, the NC Forest Service is anticipating a large increase in the number of visitors to DuPont State Recreational Forest (DSRF) this summer. The cover of the January issue of *BIKE Magazine* features two mountain bikers riding in DSRF. The March issue of *Our State* magazine has a photo-essay with 18 full-page photos taken in DSRF. Ironically, the title of the article is A Place of Solitude. An article in the March issue of *GO Magazine* promotes DSRF as one of the best mountain bike destinations in the whole country. Publicity associated with film releases in 2012 will further increase visitation to DSRF. Major scenes from the movie *The Hunger Games*, which was released on March 23, were filmed in DSRF. In February, Lionsgate (the film distributor) along with the NC Division of Tourism, Film, and Sports Development and the Transylvania County Arts Council hosted reporters from several states and Canada for a tour of sites in DSRF where scenes were filmed. A local business group will soon be offering weekend tours to these sites. Upcoming publicity for the movie *The Healer*, which was filmed largely in DSRF and Brevard, will bring additional visitors to the area this fall.

In 2011, an estimated 188,000 visitors came to DSRF. One of the reporters on the tour for *The Hunger Games* asked Assistant Forest Supervisor Bruce MacDonald if DSRF could cope with 500,000 annual visitors. Bruce replied that such an increase in the number of visitors would alter the experience. It most certainly would discredit DSRF as a place of solitude. How does the NC Forest Service achieve an acceptable balance between

ensuring a quality experience in DSRF while addressing the economic needs of local businesses and supporting the ecotourism business model promoted by city, county, and state officials? Is there a limit on the carrying capacity of DSRF? If so, what parameters should be used to establish this limit and what procedures could be used to prevent visitation from exceeding this limit? Some recreation areas control visitation by regulating parking spaces - when the parking lots are full, no more visitors are allowed in. The Hooker Falls, High Falls, and Corn Mill Shoals parking lots cannot handle current visitation levels in the summer, so clearly a much larger lot is needed to accommodate any increase in visitors. One solution is to renovate the existing parking lots on the DuPont Corporation's property, which were used daily by 1,000 employees and dozens of semi-trucks, and to enforce a no parking rule along Cascade Lake, Staton, and DuPont Roads. A large Visitor Center with adequate restrooms and a concessions area would be needed. But before building a multi-million dollar Visitor Center and parking lot to accommodate 600 cars and 25 buses per day, the NC Forest Service should consider whether they can manage the 1,500 or more visitors who would embark from the parking lots on summer days to see the waterfalls in DuPont Forest. How many hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians can share the same trail at the same time? Some recreation areas reduce the density of multi-users on trails by allowing only hikers on certain trails on even-numbered days, for example. In DuPont Forest, it might be necessary to allow only pedestrians on Triple Falls Trail and High Falls Trail on weekends from May 15 to October 30. During deer hunting season, it might be necessary to restrict certain trails and areas to hunters only. Visitation could also be controlled somewhat by charging an entrance fee, perhaps only at selected parking lots and perhaps only from May 15 to October 30. A fee of \$2/person or \$5/vehicle might reduce the number of nearby residents who just want to go for a swim in the Little River without imposing a burden on the family of four who drive from Atlanta to see the waterfalls.

These ideas, and many others, are being discussed by officials with the NC Forest Service. Before any of these ideas become reality, the NC Forest Service intends to prepare a Master Plan for DuPont State Recreational Forest that will address a multitude of issues, including how to use the 380 acre parcel that is currently owned by the DuPont Corporation. This Master Plan will be written by an independent consulting firm who will solicit input from all stakeholders, including FODF, user groups, city and county officials, and local businesses. Now is the time for FODF members to discuss these issues and formulate some ideas that could be included in the Master Plan.

*Kent Wilcox*

*Friends of DuPont Forest President*



Cover of Jan/Feb issue of BIKE Magazine. Photo taken by Dan Barham

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## News About the Forest

David R. Brown, DSRF Forest Supervisor

The *Hunger Games* movie will have been released by the time you read this. The NC Film Commission is publicizing it, in hopes of attracting more film makers to North Carolina. We anticipate the movie attracting more people, and pretend tributes, to DSRF to experience the beauty of the forest.



A scene from the Hunger Games Movie

Car counters have been installed in the three parking lots with pave entrances – Hooker Falls, High Falls and Fawn Lake. These three lots account for about 78% of our visitors. Based on the counters and my calculations, we had an estimated 28,000 visitors for the first two months of 2012. We will continue to monitor the counters and refine the numbers to get an accurate count of visitation.

We do expect increased visitation this year because of all the free publicity that has been received in recent months. DSRF was mentioned in two national publications, *Bike* magazine and *Outdoor* magazine. There was an 18 page photo essay on DSRF in the March issue of *Our State* magazine. An upstate South Carolina publication called *Go* also had an article on recreating in DSRF.



**DuPont Volunteers** – Preliminary data indicates that we had over 5,700 hours of volunteer service in 2011. This tremendous volunteer effort helped us accomplish great things and provided many public services like Tour de Falls and the litter pick up. The FODF trail crew, led by Rella Allred and Chuck Ramsey, came the second Saturday of each month. They always have a good turnout. Even when the February work project was cancelled because of rain, three people showed up to transplant vegetation on closed out segments of the Wilkie Trail. On March 10, 2011 the FODF crew combined with Gwen Hill's DuPont Equestrian Crew to start corridor clearing for the Briery Fork to Turkey Knob trail connection. Other groups that have donated hundreds of hours are the regular DSRF volunteers, SORBA, Western Piedmont CC and the Pisgah Trail Blazers. I continued to be amazed by the dedication and skills of the volunteers.

**Trail Contract** – Trail Dynamics, LLC was awarded the 2012 trail maintenance contract. They started on Mine Mountain Trail on March 13. The contract includes much needed work on six trails and will be completed by June. FODF is funding the work.

**Forest Management** – The timber harvest near Hickory Mountain Road is progressing well. White pines that were planted on pasture land in the 1960s will be replaced by pine and hardwood natural regeneration. The current harvest is the first step in this process. About 500 hardwood trees (including river birch, yellow poplar, white oak, chestnut oak and butternut) were planted along the Lake Julia spillway on February 20. American chestnut seedlings, grown from nuts collected along the Blue Ridge Parkway, were planted near Boundary Trail on March 13. Blue tree shelters were installed on all these seedlings to promote growth and protect them from deer and other wildlife.

**Pedestrian Bridge** – The NC Department of Transportation has indicated a willingness to construct a pedestrian bridge just downstream from the highway bridge at the Hooker Falls access area. Funds will be identified and a timetable established for the construction project. Once the project is completed, it will be much safer for visitors to access Triple Falls Trail without using the highway bridge.

## Winter Tree Identification Hike

Kent Wilcox, FODF President



Botany Hike

Photo courtesy of Kent Wilcox

Botany hikes are usually led in the spring to see the display of flowering plants. Spring is also a great time for tree identification, because most of us identify trees based on the shape and arrangement of the leaves. But the staff of the NC Forest Service, who are out in the field year round, need to identify trees in the dead of winter, when the leaves are a crunchy mixture on the ground. On February 18, Forest Supervisor David Brown led a Winter Tree Identification hike with a dozen FODF members. He explained that trees can be identified based on the color and pattern of bark, the arrangement of limbs, shape of bud scars, and other characteristics that are easy to observe in the winter. David also described which trees are used for fence posts, axe handles, pulp, and of course, firewood. Naturalist Fred Roane gave some interesting examples of how Native Americans used parts of some trees to make beverages and herbal medicines. Check out the Events Calendar for some upcoming opportunities for FODF members to explore the flora, fauna, and scenery in DuPont State Recreational Forest

## Tour de Falls

Kent Wilcox, FODF President

**Tour de Falls Planned** - People who are not able to walk to some of the most beautiful areas in DuPont State Recreational Forest greatly appreciate the opportunity to ride the buses that we provide during Tour de Falls. Our spring version of Tour de Falls will be held on Mother's Day weekend - May 12 and 13 - rain or shine. If the weather is good and the spring flowers are blooming, there could be more than 300 visitors each day. Buses will leave the parking lot every 30 minutes from 9 am until 2:30 pm each day and make stops at Triple Falls, High Falls, Bridal Veil Falls, and Lake Julia. Encourage your friends to come on the tour. More information is posted on our website at [www.dupontforest.com](http://www.dupontforest.com).

**Volunteers Needed** - Please consider serving as a volunteer for this event. Approximately 30 volunteers are needed each day to serve as parking lot attendants, hosts at bus stops, ticket sellers, tour guides, traffic control, and gate keepers. Most of these tasks require no training. New volunteers can be paired with experienced volunteers to see how it's done. There are two shifts each day (roughly 8:30 - 1 and 1 - 5:30). Many volunteers work for only one shift. If you are interested in helping on May 12 or 13, please send an email to [president@dupontforest.com](mailto:president@dupontforest.com).

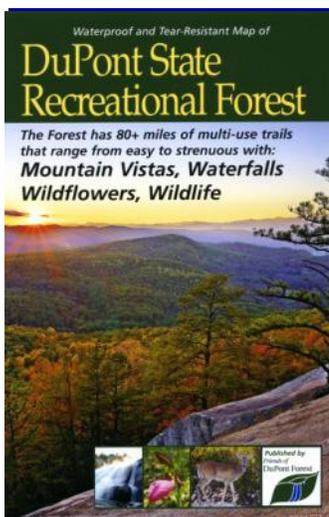


Tour de Falls - September 2011

Photo courtesy of Kent Wilcox

## New 2012 Trail Maps Are Available

Kent Wilcox, FODF President

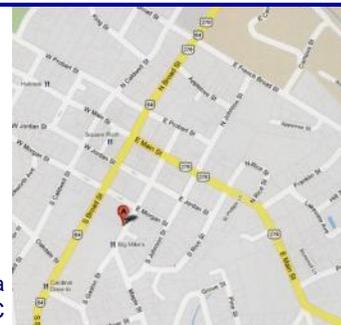


After reviewing the entire trail network in DuPont State Forest three years ago, the FODF Trails Committee submitted a long list of recommendations that included closing several trails, rerouting portions of some trails, and constructing new trail segments. Each of these recommendations was based on the goal of establishing a sustainable, well-connected trail system without increasing the total, combined length of all trails in the network. Thanks to the hard work of the staff at DuPont State Recreational Forest, the FODF Trails Crew, volunteers from SORBA and other organizations, and professional trail builders, many of those recommended changes have now been made. Last fall we began working on a new trail map that would incorporate these changes. Brian Schneider, DSRF Management Forester, spent several months redesigning the map of the trail network. It has a whole new look with a more balanced and less intense representation of trails, contours, and water features. The cover photo, generously donated by Nolan Jones from his book *Imaging DuPont* ([chasse\\_lumiere@tds.net](mailto:chasse_lumiere@tds.net)), illustrates that the beauty in DSRF extends beyond the waterfalls. Lynn Harton worked through a dozen drafts of the photo and text for Guide to Major Attractions before sending a version to be refined by Richard Parsons, graphic artist for Sunbury Design. Richard went through an additional eight revisions in response to successive suggestions from members of the FODF Board and Trails Committee. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to produce an informative, attractive, and accurate brochure. If you join FODF or renew your membership in FODF after April 1, you will receive a free copy of the 2012 map. Copies can be purchased at retail stores (listed under Local Outfitters and Accommodations at [www.dupontforest.com](http://www.dupontforest.com)) and they can be ordered online by clicking on Maps on the home page of our web site.

## Annual Meeting Scheduled

Kent Wilcox, FODF President

The Annual Meeting for the Friends of DuPont Forest will be held on Tuesday, April 24 in the Rogow Room at the Transylvania County Library located between South Broad Street and South Gaston Street in Brevard, NC. The parking lot for the library is accessible from Gaston Street (below the symbol on the map), which is one-way going south. There will be a social gathering starting at 6:30 pm, followed by the election of members to the Board of Directors and presentations from 7:00 - 8:00 pm. All FODF members attending the annual meeting may vote for the nominees to fill positions on the Board of Directors. Please plan to attend the meeting. This is a great opportunity to hear about what's happening in DuPont State Recreational Forest and to learn how Friends of DuPont Forest is working to meet its missions to support conservation, education, and recreation in the forest.



Map to the Transylvania Co. Library, Brevard, NC

## Litter Haters Unite!

Peg Bresnahan, FODF Member

The next much-needed litter pick-up is scheduled for Saturday, March 24th at 9 a.m. Meet as usual at Lake Imaging Parking Lot off DuPont/Staton Road. Unless it's lightning and a down pour we shall press on. Remember sturdy shoes, sun glasses, (one must be optimistic), a cap, gloves if you prefer your own. Orange bags, grabbers, gloves and those drop dead gorgeous vests, will be supplied. **New interested folks are encouraged to join us.** Questions? Email Dan & Peg Bresnahan at [pdbresnahan@citcom.net](mailto:pdbresnahan@citcom.net) or phone us at 828-884-6806.

# Events Calendar 2012



Date	Event	Contact	Phone (828)	Limit
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Trail Work Days</b> <b>Volunteer Work Days to maintain trails in DuPont State Recreational Forest are scheduled the 2nd Saturday of each month.</b>	<b>Rella Allred</b> Kent Wilcox	<b>749-5626</b> 885-7949	<b>None</b>
Jan 28	<b>Annual Board Retreat</b> United Community Bank -- Brevard -- 10:00-4:00			
Feb 18	<b>Winter Tree ID Hike</b> Winter walk with David Brown on DuPont trails. Meet at High Falls parking lot at 9:30 to carpool to Lake Julia.	Fred Roane	595-4181	20
March 3	<b>Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Treatments -- How they work and are they working.</b> Ranger Eric Folk will show and tell us how it's going in DuPont. Meet at High Falls lot at 9:30 for 3-mile moderate hike near Lake Dense.	Fred Roane	595-4181	20
March 24	<b>Litter Pick-up</b> Join the Litter-Haters! Meet at Lake Imaging parking lot at 10 AM	Peg Bresnahan	877-6431	None
March 27	<b>Friends of DuPont Forest Board Meeting</b> Meet at 7:00 at Guion Farm	Kent Wilcox	885-7949	
April 21	<b>What's Popping Up? Wildflower Walk at Holmes Educational State Forest</b> Bring your wildflower I.D. books and magnifying glasses. Meet at Holmes Educational Forest at 11:30 AM	Fred Roane	595-4181	20
April 24	<b>Friends of DuPont Forest Membership Meeting</b> Transylvania County Library at 6:30 for light social fare with membership meeting to follow at 7:00	Kent Wilcox	885-7949	
May 5	<b>Last of the Mohicans Hike</b> Scenes in this famous movie were shot in DuPont Forest. Hear the details by an actor and see the sites. Details to come.	Stephanie Morrow	712-8933	20
May 12	<b>Tour de Falls (Check website for updates.) Volunteers needed.</b>	Kent Wilcox	885-7949	<b>Open to Public</b>
May 13	<b>Tour de Falls</b>			25
May 17	<b>Blue Ghost Firefly Walk</b>	Aleen Steinberg	885-2477	25
May 18	<b>Blue Ghost Firefly Walk</b> Learn about and see these enchanting blue-light resident insects. High Falls parking lot at 9:00 PM			
May 19	<b>Litter Pick-up</b> Join the Litter-Haters! Meet at Lake Imaging parking lot at 10:00 AM	Peg Bresnahan	877-6431	None
May 22	<b>Friends of DuPont Forest Board Meeting</b> Meet at 7:00 at Guion Farm	Kent Wilcox	885-7949	
June 2	<b>DuPont Trails Day</b> Support trail improvements in DuPont Forest's 80+ miles of trails.	Rella Allred	749-5626	None
June 16	<b>Explore Big Rock/Cedar Rock</b> Enjoy vistas from one of the highest points in DuPont. Strenuous - 5-mile hike, bring lunch. Corn Mill Shoals parking lot at 9:00	Bev Parlier	883-9278	25
July 21	<b>Litter Pick-up</b> Join the Litter-Haters! Meet at Lake Imaging parking lot at 9:00 AM	Peg Bresnahan	877-6431	None
July 24	<b>Friends of DuPont Forest Board Meeting</b> Meet at 7:00 at Guion Farm	Kent Wilcox	885-7949	
August 18	<b>Botanical Walk at Guion Farm</b> Join Jenny Lellinger to identify and enjoy wild plants in DuPont Forest. Meet at Guion Farm at 10:00 AM	Peg Bresnahan	884-6806	25
August 25	<b>3-Falls 3-Lakes Hike (Particulars to be announced later.)</b> Moderate 5-mile hike led by Jan Tenderholt. High Falls parking lot at 10:00	Bev Parlier	883-9278	25
Sept 22	<b>Litter Pick-up</b> Join the Litter-Haters! Meet at Lake Imaging parking lot at 9:00 AM	Peg Bresnahan	877-6431	None
Sept 25	<b>Friends of DuPont Forest Board Meeting</b> Meet at 7:00 at Guion Farm	Kent Wilcox	885-7949	
Sept 29	<b>ADYC (another danged yellow composite) Wildflower Hike</b> It's Fall and now the yellows and the asters are leading the wildflower show. Fawn Lake lot, 10:00.	Fred Roane	595-4181	20
Oct 6	<b>FODF Canoe Day</b> Canoes and snacks provided for/by FODF members at Lake Julia. Meet at Fawn Lake parking lot between 9-4:00	Lee Lindsay	894-0733	Members
Oct 13	<b>Tour de Falls (Check website for updates.) Volunteers needed.</b>	Chris McDonnell	692-2929	<b>Open to Public</b>
Oct 14	<b>Tour de Falls</b>			25
Oct 20	<b>Stone Mountain Hike -- Highest point in DuPont</b> Difficult 4-mile hike. Guion Farm parking lot at 10:00	Chris McDonnell	692-2929	25
Oct 27	<b>Moonlight Hike -- Cedar Rock</b> Bring headlamp or flashlight. Cornmill Shoals -- 6:00 p.m.	Bev Parlier	883-9278	25
Nov 10	<b>Litter Pick-up</b> Join the Litter-Haters! Meet at Lake Imaging parking lot at 9:00 AM	Peg Bresnahan	877-6431	None
Nov 17	<b>Geology Hike</b> Jim Reynolds will lead this outing. Meeting place and time TBD.	Aleen Steinberg	885-2477	25
Nov 27	<b>Friends of DuPont Forest Board Meeting</b> Meet at 7:00 at Guion Farm	Kent Wilcox	885-7949	
Dec 8	<b>History/Cemetery Hike -- Thomas Cemetery</b> There's a lot of history in "Them Thar Hills". What do we know about our early settlers? Guion Farm parking lot at 10:00	Fred Roane	595-4181	25

More details will be available before each event by email or in the FODF newsletter. For events with a limited number of participants, reservations will be taken one month in advance of the event. To make a reservation, call the contact person or send an email that includes your name and phone number to [events@dupontforest.com](mailto:events@dupontforest.com). Events are for FODF members only unless shown as "Open to Public".



## Volunteer Trail Crew

Rella Allred, FODF Trail Coordinator



March 10, 2012 - Trail Work Crew

Photo courtesy of Bev Parlier

The FODRF Volunteer Trail Crew, which playfully dubs itself "The Department of *Trail* Corrections", has been extremely diligent this winter. Cold weather has not slowed them down. Working the second Saturday of each month for about 4 hours, the crew has cleared views at waterfalls, chopped roots out of Three Lakes Trail, built a boardwalk over a boggy area for bikes and foot traffic at the end of Reasonover Trail near the Devondorf foot bridge, and created a re-route on Grassy Meadow Trail. The unstoppable threesome of Tom Fanslow, Chuck Ramsey and Rich Clayton went out on a snowy morning in February and transplanted vegetation back into the area that used to be part of Wilkie Trail which is now re-routed. Often our assignments include addressing water issues on the trails by opening up drainage areas as well as clearing downfall, overgrown areas, roots in the trail and such.

Our most recent project was to begin clearing for a new trail connection between Briery Fork and Turkey Knob trails. It is hoped that a contract for the completion of this connection will be let later this year. Pictured is the FODF Volunteer Trail Crew which was joined in for the March work day by the DuPont Equestrian work crew. Anyone interested in joining in the fun, contact Rella Allred, [rella@tds.net](mailto:rella@tds.net), or phone 828-749-5626.



December 10, 2011 - Building a boardwalk over the wet area near the Bill Devondorf Bridge



Photos courtesy of Tom & Bev Parlier

Keep up to date with events sponsored by the Friends of  
DuPont Forest by going to [www.dupontforest.com](http://www.dupontforest.com).

# Join or Renew Your Membership Now

## Membership

- 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 ( S, M, L, XL, XXL ) Circle one*
- 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** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - I've already joined online through dupontforest.com**

## Get Involved

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

**Save the stamps.** Please E-mail my newsletter to the E-mail address listed below

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

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

If you would like to share a photo, story, event or news about your DuPont State Forest experience, e-mail your information to Nancy Black, Newsletter Editor at newsletter@dupontforest.com

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