



# The Little River Watermark

Membership Newsletter for Friends of DuPont Forest

April 2006

## Get Involved with FODF in 2006

by Gloria Clouse, Volunteer Coordinator

This year would be a great year to get involved with the activities at DuPont Forest. Last year volunteers turned in over 700 hours working on the Tour de Falls and over 350 hours serving as Parking Lot hosts. We hope the current volunteers will find time in their schedule to again support FODF activities and that we will have new members volunteer their time and energy.

How can you get involved? Here are some of the ways:

**Tour de Falls** It takes a lot of volunteers to make these two weekends – Mother's Day weekend, May 13 & 14 and Fall Weekend, October 21 & 22 – a success. We need guides at each of the waterfalls, hospitality hosts at Lake Julia, workers for the membership and maps table, and parking lot directors. Shifts are approximately four hours and you can sign up for as many as you like! This is a good time to get to know other FODF members and support a good cause.

**Parking Lot Hosts** - We would like to increase the number of weekends we have hosts in the parking lots. We staff information booths at kiosks at Hooker Falls and Buck Forest Parking lots. Information and supplies are stored at the Future Visitors Center (Log building at the Buck Forest Entrance). Members greet visitors, answer

questions, sell maps, and provide information. They are the "face of FODF" and help to provide membership information to visitors to the park. We have morning (10-1) and afternoon (1-4) shifts available on the weekends and on the major holidays (Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Labor Day).

**Visitor Count** – We have a project this year to collect data that will help verify our visitor count through out the year. We will need volunteers to count cars, count visitors and possibly interview visitors. This will be done on specific days and we will give you more details later. Please let us know if you would like to be contacted.

**Refreshment Donations** - If you can donate baked goods or refreshments for our events, please let us know and we will give you a call when food is needed. Some events coming up are Tour de Falls, Blue Ghost Fireflies, Canoe Day and other events throughout the year.

**History Project**—We have an on-going project collecting the history of the DuPont Forest area. Board member John Carney has been working with Brevard College students and other members to collect the information. If you have an interest in history, we can find a project for you.

### How do you get involved?

Contact Gloria Clouse at [volunteers@dupontforest.com](mailto:volunteers@dupontforest.com) or call 884-2006.

## GET INVOLVED IN 2006!



Blue Ghost  
Firefly Festival  
June 1&2, 2006



Jean Patrie (left) celebrates her 90th birthday at the Triple Falls Pavilion during the Mother's Day Tour de Falls in May 2005. Mary Ann Patrie (daughter-in-law) and Stan Patrie (son) enjoy the special day with her.

Greetings from Friends of DuPont Forest for our first newsletter for 2006. We will try to bring you up to date on what I hope will be interest items over the past few months, schedule of activities upcoming and projects that are underway.

Update on the AGFA/DuPont former plant site. All of the buildings except one small office building have been demolished. This includes the former employees campground. AGFA will continue leveling building foundations to finish by the end of June. At this point DuPont will take title to the 440 acres and will perform site remediation that will take any where from 2-5 years. This remediation has already begun in the outlying areas. Plans are to eventually transfer all of the acreage to the State. Discussions have begun to determine whether some of the land might be transferred prior to the completion of the full remediation. FODF supports this early partial transfer because it likely would open a shorter route to Bridal Veil Falls as well as Lake Derra. This early transfer would probably still be 2 years away.

FODF is actively working to obtain increased State funding for DSF. As I think you know, DSF, by being a State Forest rather than a State Park, does not receive capital funding for anything related to recreation. FODF has, however, received good cooperation from our area legislative representatives, Rep. Trudi Walend and Sen. John Snow with initiatives to help DSF. Strangely, the appropriation they helped get came through NCDOT budgets, but we will accept it from any source at this point. This funding will be directed toward a pedestrian bridge at Hooker Falls parking lot and the Visitors Center. I report on plans for each of these below.

Pedestrian bridge. We now have over 60,000 visitors a year at the Hooker Falls parking lot that must cross the busy highway bridge to reach the Triple Falls Trail. FODF has been advocating construction of a pedestrian bridge that would go from the parking lot, cross the river and allow passage under the bridge. We have received a \$100m grant from NCDOT toward the construction of this bridge. To salvage this grant we have to have an architectural design before the end of June. To keep this project moving FODF has agreed to fund this architectural design.

Visitors Center. The log building at the Buck Forest parking lot has been designated for a Visitors Center. We have received a \$250m appropriation to be applied toward construction of this center. However we have to first complete an architectural design. The Forest Service is contracting design work for finishing the log building, constructing public restrooms and expanding the Buck Forest parking lot. We anticipate this will be finished this year so that the project can be put out for bids in early 2007. We anticipate existing funding will not be enough to completely finish the project but will be stretched as far as we can go.

Trail building. Contracts will be let for rebuilding the Jim Branch and Briery Fork Trails by the end of April. FODF will fund the Jim Branch effort and the Briery Fork work will be funded by an Adopt-A-Trail grant. The FODF also has approved rebuilding the trail leading to the middle falls area of Triple Falls. It remains to be designed and contracted.

Bill Devendorf Bridge. The bridge is completed with funding by FODF and work by FODF Volunteers and the Forest Service staff. Dedication of the bridge will be 11 a.m. on April 1. A reception at the Lodge will follow at noon. The public is invited to this event. Shuttle service from the Buck Forest parking lot will begin at 10 a.m.

Visitor Counts. One of the things we have learned this past year is the importance of more accurate counting of the number visitors to DuPont Forest. This influences the receipt of proper funding by State agencies and our ability to receive grants needed for recreation services. The Forest Service has relied on very limited sampling of parking lot counts to estimate numbers of visitors. For 2005 this estimate was 121,000 visitors. However, additional sampling has indicated the numbers could be much higher, and as a result FODF will mount a serious effort in 2006 to help the Forest Service to obtain a more accurate counting.

Other activities. We have several events coming up this spring. They include our Annual Meeting on April 26 to (TBA), our annual Tour de Falls on Mother's Day weekend, Volunteer Training Day at Lake Imaging on May 20, participation in the Brevard White Squirrel Festival Memorial Day weekend and the Blue Ghost Firefly Festival on June 1-2. We'll also start staffing the parking lot shelters the end of May with as many volunteers as we can recruit (this involves greeting visitors and answering questions about the trails, selling maps, and making sure hikers have water to avoid dehydration)

WHEW, I'm exhausted just going over all of the above. But we can only do this with the excellent cooperation we receive from the Forest Service staff and you, our volunteers. We really do appreciate you who volunteer, it makes a visit to DuPont Forest a pleasurable experience for both local folks and our out of town visitors. It helps to make Transylvania and Henderson counties become a tourist destination. To volunteer just go to our web site [www.dupontforest.com](http://www.dupontforest.com) and click 'Volunteer Coordinator' or 'President' or send us a note at PO Box 2107, Brevard. We'll get back to you in a jiffy!!!!

Dick Thompson  
FODF President

**Oops!**

We would like to thank Falling Creek Camp for Boys for providing canoes for our member appreciation day on September 11, 2005. In the December issue of The Little River Watermark, we thanked the camp under the wrong name.



## Volunteer Picnic

by Gloria Clouse, Volunteer Coordinator

The Friends of DuPont Forest will host a Volunteer Picnic on Saturday, May 20, 2006 at Lake Imaging from 12 pm to 3 pm. We would like to say thank you to all of you who volunteered for the FODF events and for new members interested in volunteering. We hope to present some information about the forest and kick off our Parking Lot Hosts for the 2006 season. A schedule will be available to sign up for weekends during the summer and fall. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have about the Parking Lot Host program. Plus there will be good food and an opportunity to meet other members of the Friends of DuPont Forest. Bring your family. Fishing is available for children or persons with a valid fishing license.

The picnic will be at Lake Imaging in DuPont Forest. Park in the Lake Imaging Parking Lot on Staton Road. The trail is on the left as you enter the parking lot and it is a short 5-7 minute walk to the lake.

It will help in our planning to know if you plan to attend the picnic. Please e-mail me at [volunteers@dupontforest.com](mailto:volunteers@dupontforest.com) to let me know your plans.



## News About the Forest

By David Brown, DSF Supervisor

Spring is here and activity is picking up on the forest. Here is information on an recent special event.

Two hundred and ten runners showed up for a 12 kilometer (7.4 mile) trail race on DuPont State Forest on Saturday, March 18. The race started and ended at the Guion Farm access area on Sky Valley Road. Winner of the race, Frankie Adkins of Asheville, finished the course in 45.75 minutes. He said, "It was a good race. There were a lot of steep up and downs, but it was a good distance." Jay Curwen also from Asheville finished second. Jennings Minton was first, and Sesalie Smathers was second in the female division.

Race organizer, Norman Blair of Jus' Running, attributed the high turnout for the race to cabin fever. Several of the runners commented on the scenic course winding along trails on DuPont State Forest. All proceeds from the trail run will go to Friends of DuPont State Forest to continue making improvements to forest trails and facilities.

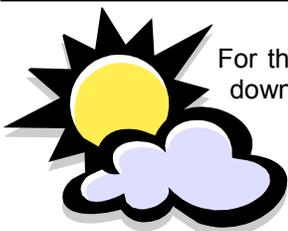


David Brown, DSF Forest Supervisor

## Annual Meeting Still Being Planned

On Wednesday, April 26, 2006 the annual meeting for the Friends of DuPont Forest will be held at a Transylvania County location. FODF was hoping that the Transylvania County Library would be available in time for the annual meeting but as of this publication was not yet available. The gathering will start with refreshments at 6:30 pm and

the program at 7:00 pm. Volunteers will be recognized for their contributions to DuPont Forest. Reports and information on DuPont Forest will be presented. This is an excellent time for members and potential members to find out more about DuPont forest and the Friends of DuPont Forest organization. Look for further info. on meeting location.



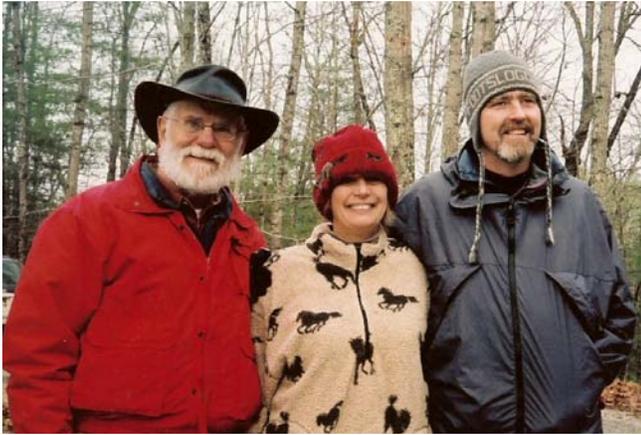
For the latest weather conditions in the DuPont State Forest go to [www.dupontforest.com](http://www.dupontforest.com) and scroll down the left menu column from our home page. Click on DSF Weather Station or go to [http://www.met.utah.edu/cgi-bin/roman/meso\\_base.cgi?stn=GUIN7](http://www.met.utah.edu/cgi-bin/roman/meso_base.cgi?stn=GUIN7)

You can check DSF's current temperature, dew point, relative humidity, wind speed, pressure and more. Readings are taken at Guion Farm. Bookmark it today on your computer!

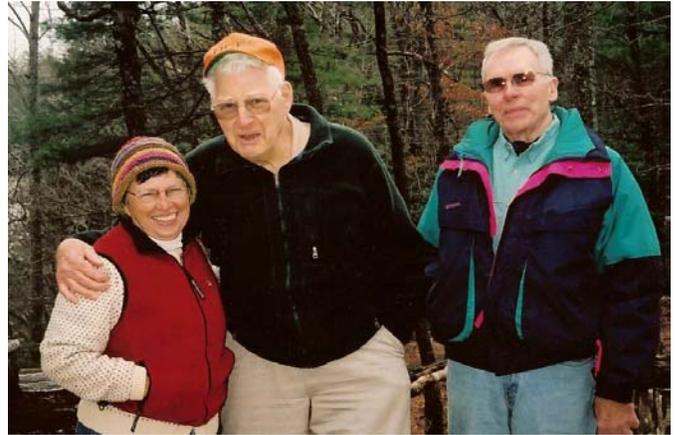
Do you have a story, picture, activity, article about the DuPont State Forest or the Friends of DuPont Forest Volunteers you would like to share with other members? We are always looking to spread the word about the happenings in the Forest. Send information to [nancyblack@dupontforest.com](mailto:nancyblack@dupontforest.com).

# Anniversary Celebration

On December 17, 2005, FODF celebrated the Five -Year Anniversary of the acquisition of the center 2,200 acre portion of the DuPont State Forest. It was held at the Triple Falls shelter overlooking the waterfalls. Speeches were given, refreshments were enjoyed & memories were made during the afternoon festivities.



Seth Harrison, Gwen Hill & Woody Keen



Gloria Clouse, Bill Devendorf, & Chris McDonnell



Front Row: Gloria Clouse. Back row: Peg Breshnahan, Aleen Steinberg, David Brown, Bev Parlier, John & Janice Carney



Original members of the Friends of the Falls that were in attendance at the Anniversary Celebration in December

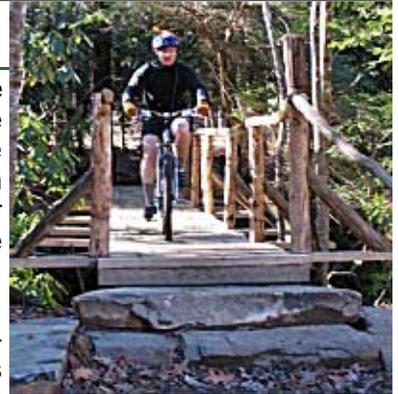


Photos courtesy of Sarah Sneed & Nancy Black

Friends gather for prosperity photo in front of Triple Falls. December 17, 2005

## Special Volunteer Honored

Friends of Dupont Forest proudly announce the dedication of the Bill Devendorf Bridge over Reasonover Creek on DuPont State Forest. The dedication ceremony will take place on Saturday, April 1. Following the ceremony FODF will host a reception at the Lodge overlooking Lake Julia. Attendees must gather at the Buck Forest parking lot on Staton Road beginning at 10:00 a.m. Transportation will be available to the Reasonover Creek Trail head at Lake Julia. The dedication will occur at 11:00 a.m. at the bridge site located on Reasonover Creek about ¼ mile above Lake Julia.



The pedestrian bridge was constructed by DuPont State Forest staff and FODF volunteers, using funds donated to FODF in honor of Bill Devendorf. The 40-foot bridge was constructed with locust timbers and oak decking. A trail contractor helped to place large stones along the approaches on both sides making it a very attractive bridge well suited to the natural surroundings.

Bill Devendorf (known by many as Bill D.) served as a full time volunteer caretaker at Dupont State Forest beginning in April 2001. He coordinated the work of forest rangers that served short-term assignments at the forest, and at times was the only person on site to assist visitors. The State Forest Service began hiring staff for the forest in July 2002. Bill stayed on as a volunteer until May 2004 when he retired. He returned to the area in 2005, and is presently serving as a volunteer assisting with visitor services.

As volunteer caretaker, Bill D. patrolled the forest to help visitors safely experience the beautiful waterfalls, opened gates for handicapped entry, and distributed forest information in person and by phone. He also worked to maintain trails and did many things that helped make the visitor experience one to be remembered.

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



Friends of  
DuPont Forest

Invites you to

## Tour de Falls



May 13 & 14  
May 13 & 14

**Clip this flyer out and**



**invite your special someone**

Friends of DuPont Forest will again sponsor the annual Tour de Falls on Mothers Day Weekend, Saturday May 13 and Sunday May 14, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Leaving from the Buck Forest parking lot off Staton Road in Cedar Mountain, vans will allow Moms of all ages with 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 spring 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.

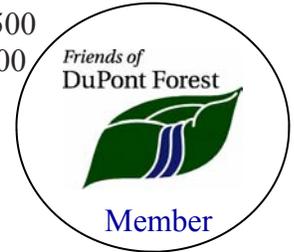
Leaving Bridal Veil Falls the vans will take visitors to Lake Julia, the 100-acre lake sitting on top of the mountains surrounded by laurel and rhododendron, where light refreshments will be served in the rustic Lodge. The round trip tour of about 10 miles passes over a covered bridge and through beautiful 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 spring flowers 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 overall 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 spring and the most spectacular waterfalls in the southeast. A donation of only \$10 for the day is requested. Plan to spend as much of the day as you can. This is the 4th year that FODF has sponsored the weekend tours and they have been very well received. If you have any questions contact the FODF web site at [www.dupontforest.com](http://www.dupontforest.com) or call 862-5618 or 884-2006.

# Join or Renew Now

If you don't remember when your yearly membership renewal expires, contact Gloria Clouse at [volunteers@dupontforest.com](mailto:volunteers@dupontforest.com)

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



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 when you join or renew your membership with FODF***

**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



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

First Class  
Stamp Here

## FODF Board of Directors

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