



The Little River Watermark

Membership Newsletter for Friends of DuPont Forest

August 2006

Brevard Site

Statement Re: Reacquiring Ownership of Property July 19, 2006

Greg Smith, Public Affairs Manager, DuPont—Corporate Remediation Group

On July 19, 2006, DuPont reacquired ownership of the former Brevard plant site and associated property from AGFA. Possessing ownership of the property will enhance our ability to protect the environmental condition of the land and allow us to complete our remediation work as quickly as possible. Our long-term intention for the site involves completing environmental remediation work and then transferring the land to the state of North Carolina (State), which will allow all North Carolinians to one day enjoy the property.

While we are pleased to reacquire the site, we are assuming significant new responsibilities as a property owner and also expect to increase the level of environmental remediation work we conduct on the land. We will be required to evaluate numerous site-specific issues related to security, safety, public access and future work, to name but a few. To the greatest extent possible, we intend to limit the number of changes we implement at the site that may differ from how AGFA operated. If we are required to implement changes that may impact the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources (NCDFR) or the public who enjoy the DuPont State Forest, we intend to work diligently with key stakeholders to implement solutions that benefit the public, the NCDFR, the DuPont State Forest and DuPont.

One site-related issue that will require a change has already been identified. We have discovered that NCDFR employees/contractors/invitees and the general public have been allowed access to Conservation Road where it crosses our property along the southeast corner of the site despite the fact that there is no agreement with NCDFR to authorize the use of our land in this

manner. In light of liability-related concerns and our risk management practices, we will use/enhance existing gates and install appropriate signage to clearly identify that portion of Conservation Road as being private property and not a part of the DuPont State Forest.

We recognize that this change has the potential to impact not only the NCDFR but also certain other key stakeholders who are important to the DuPont State Forest. After discussions with NCDFR, Friends of the DuPont State Forest and Transylvania County, we have reached an agreement with the State to allow continued access to Conservation Road where it crosses our property to: NCDFR employees, NCDFR contractors and invitees subject to the State's Special Use Permitting process, and volunteers conducting business related to the maintenance and security of DuPont State Forest property.

DuPont, the State and the other key stakeholders believe the agreement represents an acceptable short-term solution that balances our rights and obligations as a private property owner with the need for continuing access by agencies, groups and individuals who are important to the administration, maintenance and security of the DuPont State Forest.

DuPont, the State and the other key stakeholders also recognize that a permanent solution to this long-standing issue is needed, and we intend to continue working with NCDFR and the State to create a scenario under which full access to Conservation Road can be resumed.



Double Yellow Lady Slipper taken on Turkey Knob Trail. Picture courtesy of Bev Parlier.

Dear Friends of DuPont Forest Member,

On July 19th, the DuPont Corporation assumed ownership of the AGFA industrial site as part of the long-term environmental remediation of the site. In the press release listed above, the DuPont Corporation announces that it must close the gates on the 1/3 mile of Conservation Road that passes through its property due to legal liability issues. All parties have agreed to seek a solution to this situation as soon as possible.

The road closing near the center of DuPont State Forest primarily affects visitors wanting to visit Bridal Veil Falls & Lake Julia from the Buck Forest and Hooker Falls Accesses. These attractions are still accessible from the Fawn Lake Access.

Forest Management and Friends of DuPont Forest urge all visitors to respect this closure on private property. We realize that this is a significant inconvenience for some visitors, and we look forward to a quick resolution on this issue in the coming months.

You will notice a new name in the President's corner. Dick Thompson stepped down from the office of President for personal reasons in May. Dick was a vital member of the Friends of the Falls and served as Treasurer of Friends of DuPont Forest for four years before becoming president last year. Dick has served DuPont forest well and we thank him for his important work.

BLUE GHOST FIREFLY GRANT – *Phausis reticula*, known as the Blue Ghost Firefly is an unusual species of firefly or lightening bug. Rather than flash a yellow or greenish light, the adults of the species glow with a constant, dim blue light. They are visible for only a short season that runs from May 15-June 15. To date these fireflies have been observed in only 4 locations: Elkmont, TN, Cleveland, SC, Balsam Grove, NC, and DuPont State Forest. Dr. Jennifer Frick, Executive Director of Appalachian Center for Environmental Education has been collecting information and doing research to find out more about habitat requirements and basic biology of the Blue Ghost. In hopes of gaining more information about protecting this rare phenomenon in our forest, FODF has granted Dr. Frick \$500 to further her research.

AMERICORPS VOLUNTEER – We are excited to have our first Americorps volunteer at DuPont Forest. Michelle Ziegler has accepted the position and will be assigned to DuPont Forest from September to June, completing 1700 hours of volunteer work within the forest. Michelle will work directly under Bruce MacDonald, Assistant Forest Supervisor. Projects will include gathering statistics about visitation to the forest, develop a community outreach program, assimilating an inventory of forest plants, and lead hikes and tours. We will tell you more about Michelle and her work in the next newsletter

GRANT WRITERS NEEDED – If you have experience or are interested in writing Grants, I would like to talk to you. We would like to get supplemental funds for projects like the Visitors Center. Please contact me at president@dupontforest.com or call 828-884-2006

CANOE DAY AND LITTER PICK UP- We have two events scheduled in August. We have scheduled a litter pick up on August 19th. Many hands make light work, so please join us. Don't miss our annual canoe day on Lake Julia on August 26th. More details follow in this newsletter.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. Hope to see you on the trails
Gloria Clouse
Interim President

Pink Lady Slipper pushes through the forest ground cover



Membership Canoe Event Planned

by Gloria Clouse, Volunteer Coordinator

We are planning a special outing for **Friends of Dupont Forest Members** on **August 26, 2006**, 10 am to 4pm, at Lake Julia. This is a special opportunity to enjoy the serenity and beauty of Lake Julia. It is also a good time to meet other FODF members and share experiences in DuPont Forest. We will have canoes and life jackets available for members to enjoy, and to explore the lake. FODF will provide coffee, doughnuts, hot dogs, chips, apples and drinks. Members are welcome to bring other sides, snacks or dessert items to share. Please join us for a day of fun and fellowship in a beautiful outdoor setting. If you have your own canoe or kayak you want to use, please let me know so we can make arrangements for you to get into the forest.

We will have someone at the gate on the hour (10, 11, 12, 1, 2, and 3) and will shuttle or carpool people back to Lake Julia. If you wish to hike in (approximately 1 ¼ miles), follow Conservation road to Camp Summit Road by the airstrip. Follow Camp Summit Road until it intersects with Lake Julia Road. Turn right and you should be able to smell the hot dogs!

**Directions to Fawn Lake Parking lot on Reasonover Rd.
From Brevard (Rte 276)**

From center of downtown Brevard, travel 11 miles. Turn left onto Cascade Lake Rd. Then take your first right (just past Cedar Mtn. Fire Dept.) onto Reasonover Rd. Follow to Fawn Lake Parking area.

From Hendersonville (DuPont/Staton Rd.)

Follow DuPont/Staton Rd (past both Hooker Falls & Buck Forest parking areas) to the end. Turn left onto Cascade Lake Rd. Follow for approximately 3 miles. Turn left onto Reasonover Rd. (before Cedar Mtn. Fire Dept.) Follow to Fawn Lake Parking area.



It would be helpful for our planning to know how many are coming to Canoe Day.
Please respond back to membership@dupontforest.com or call 884-2006.



News About the Forest

By Bruce MacDonald, Assist. DSF Supervisor



It's been another busy spring and early summer for the staff at Dupont State Forest. The active spring fire season included a 4 acre fire on the forest near Sky Valley Road and several staff members spent time fighting fires across the state.

The Triple Falls area has seen many recent improvements including new steps to the middle portion of the falls, a re-built shelter and a new trail from the shelter down to the trail. The steps were designed, pre-built and installed by Eric Hurley and his students in the construction program at Central Piedmont Community College. DSF staffers Alvin Barnwell and Frank Cubero headed up the other parts of the project.

Trail builder, Ed Sutton, and other volunteers put in a half-mile loop trail near Guion Farm, geared toward kids and beginning bikers. Groups working on this project include Trail Dynamics, Cub Scout Pack 703, Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association and Dupont State Forest Staff. Other roads and trails receiving recent work include Shortcut Trail, Briery Fork Trail, Joanna Road, Jim Branch Trail, Thomas Cemetery Road, Rocky Ridge Trail, Flatwoods Trail Camp Summit Road and Conservation Road. The Holly Road project has been started with 4 culverts being installed and drainage work on-going as weather allows.

Other work includes roof repairs at the office and equipment shed, coordinating design work on the Visitor Center, the footbridge at Hooker Falls and rehabilitation of the Hooker Falls area.

Visitation has been heavy, with several shelter reservations, handicap permits and other special use projects every week. There have been several emergencies including at least 3 falls with injuries, 2 of these involving helicopter evacuations. Cedar Mountain Fire and Rescue provides an invaluable service to the community and forest visitors with capable responses to these emergencies.

Hike to Three Lakes

Jeff Jennings, FODF Past President

I will be leading a "Hike to Three Lakes" at DuPont State Forest on August 12th. The event is cosponsored by FODF and the Environmental & Conservation Organization. If you interested in participating, see details below:

'Hike to Three Lakes'

Saturday, August 12, 2006 - 1- 3 p.m.

Join leader Jeff Jennings to visit Lake Dense, Lake Alford, and Lake Julia at DuPont State Forest. A 3 -4 mile walk on gravel road-beds. Bring your swimsuit! Meet at Buck Forest parking lot on DuPont/Staton Rd. Cancelled for thunderstorms. The hike is open to the public at no charge. Cosponsored by ECO and Friends of DuPont Forest. For directions to Buck Forest parking lot, visit www.dupontforest.com. For more information phone ECO at 828-692-0385.

Parking Lot Hosts Needed

Bev Parlier, FODF Ambassador Coordinator



"Can you drive under Bridal Veil Falls?"
"Why is it called Triple Falls?"
"How far is it to hike to see the waterfalls?"

"How do I get to High Falls?"
"How did Hooker Falls get it's name?"
"Can you camp in the forest?"

These are typical questions you will be asked as parking lot hosts. Meeting & greeting guests at DuPont State Forest is a lot of fun and VERY educational! Being a Parking Lot host lets you communicate with the public by answering their questions, give directions, sell maps, provide FODF membership information and more.

We are looking for more hosts in the upcoming weekends. Shifts are 10am-1pm and 1pm-4pm at both Hooker Falls & Buck Forest parking areas. All the materials you will need to be a Parking Lot Host are provided. Please call Bev at 883-9278 or e-mail at rokclmbr1@yahoo.com if you can work as a host and be "The Face of FODF".

And by the way.... Hooker Falls is named for the original owner of the land where the waterfall is located.

Working Together

by Rella Allred, FODF Secretary & Pisgah Trailblazers Member



Recent additions and improvements to DuPont State Forest provide excellent examples of the outstanding results that happen when various user groups work together to benefit all.

The new steps at Triple Falls make the area safer as well as more accessible and esthetically appealing. This engineering feat was planned and largely executed by Eric Hurley and students from Western Piedmont Community College. While FODF and the NC Forest Service provided funding for materials, the college group designed and prefabricated a large percentage of the actual steps which they then brought to the site. While the work was carried out, the group stayed at Guion Farm over the weekend of April 28th, 29th, and 30th. Also with FODF funding, Chris McDonnell, treasurer of FODF, served as host for meals by delivering breakfasts, lunches and one dinner to the workers and the group was treated to the Twin Dragons Chinese Buffet restaurant for dinner one night. Dick Thompson and Chuck Cordray, of FODF; were on site.

Putting up a mighty effort, ranger Frank Cubero, headed up the team of rangers & volunteers, working on site. According to Bruce MacDonald, Assistant Forest Supervisor, the entire ranger staff had a hand in the accomplishment. While Pisgah Trailblazers equestrian group worked in other areas of the forest that weekend, members Tom Thomas, Chuck Cordray and Chris Hendrix pitched in to help with the heavy physical labor involved in building the steps. The area was so

steep that ropes had to be used by the workers to pull themselves up and down the bank on the many trips needed to get the steps in place. All involved can take great pride in a hard job well done.

FODF also assisted in funding materials for the new handicapped pier at Lake Julia and the new picnic shelter at Triple Falls which was built by the ranger staff and materials needed were purchased by FODF. The roof of the old shelter, while interesting with the moss growing in abundance atop, was becoming unsafe. The new shelter is most attractive and provides a great place for a respite on an outdoor adventure or as a gathering place for a picnic with family and friends.

The re-built Jim Branch Trail is one of the nicest trails you will ever see. With funding provided by FODF, the NC Forest Service was able to contract with professional trail builders at Trail Dynamics to re-route 1.4 miles of trail away from a steep and badly eroding area. Rangers and volunteer groups such as the Pisgah Trailblazers helped with clearing brush and also closing off the old trail. The result is a beautiful and sustainable trail to be enjoyed by all who love hiking, biking or horseback riding in the forest.



Trash Time Again

By Peg Breshnahan, FODF Board Member

Our adopted highway is a mess. Not good public relations and certainly bad for our beautiful forest. The time and date for clean-up is Saturday, August 19th at 9 a.m. Meet at Hooker Falls. Stout shoes, a hat for the sun and repellent for the bugs, and gloves are a good idea. If you own a "grabber," that's even better. Bags will be provided. We will finish at noon. Our area begins at Hooker. We will work down hill to the corner of Staton and Cascade Lake Road. The more who volunteer the sooner we'll be finished. This isn't glory work but it's necessary and a part of what FODF is all about.

All people who've expressed an interest in helping with litter pick-up, (and those who haven't) should contact Peg Breshnahan at 828-884-6806 or email her at pdbresnahan@citcom.net



Summer Camps & DuPont State Forest

It is a natural fit! We are happy to have so many campers at area summer camps enjoy the outdoors at DuPont State Forest. With hiking, biking, running, horseback riding and special projects, they make up a large percentage of our summer visitors. We would like to thank the following camps for their membership in FODF and for their support:

Camp Arrowhead, Camp Glen Ardem, Blue Star Camps, Camp Carolina, Eagle's Nest Foundation, Camp Greystone, Camp Kahdalea/Chosatonga, Keystone Camp, Camp FDB, Gwynn Valley Camp, Camp Illahee, Camp Mondamin, Falling Creek Camp, Camp Green Cove, Green River Preserve, Camp Pinewood, Camp Pinnacle, Camp High Rocks, Camp Rockmont, Camp Timberlake, Camp Merri Mac, Sky Valley Camp, Camp Wayfarer, Camp Sierra, The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina Enchantment.

Hiking on Dad's Special Day

by Jim Plick, FODF Trails Co-Chair

On Fathers Day, June 18, 2006, the Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy and the FODF sponsored a two part hike on Conservancy owned property and in the DuPont State Forest. A warm and sunny afternoon made for a perfect day for father's day hike. Approximately twenty members from both the CMLC and FODF participated in the hike.

The group met at the Fresh Market parking lot in Hendersonville & carpoled to Old CCC Road to what is known as the "Buckner Property." This 118 acre parcel is located in Henderson County and is adjacent to the DuPont State Forest on it's northern boarder.

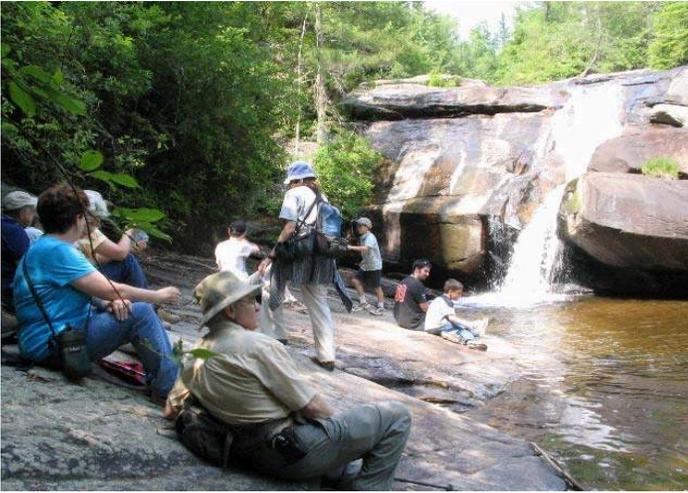


FODF & CMLC member explore an old chimney on the Buckner Farm

The hike on the property followed trails into the wooded parcel and included stops at an old unmarked gravesite and some ruins of buildings on the property.

After the Buckner property visit, the group proceeded to the Guion Parking lot and then hiked to Wintergreen Falls. After some relaxing time visiting the falls, the group returned to the parking area, completing a lovely day in the woods.

FODF & CMLC relax at Wintergreen Falls. Pictures courtesy of Jim Plick



Geology of DuPont Forest

Jon Strom, Brevard College Student

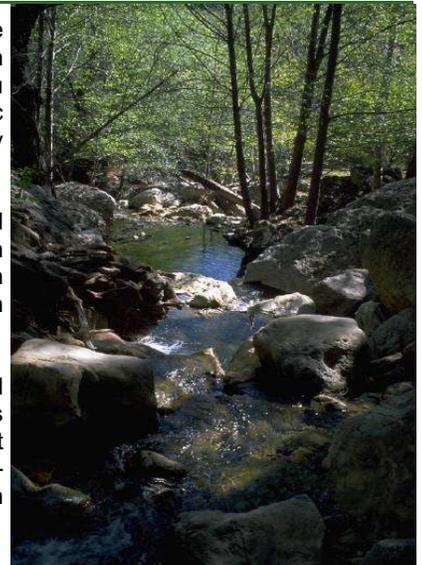
The DuPont State Forest has an interesting geologic history. As you stand in the forest, imagine it nearly took at least 500 million years old, and might have been a high Appalachian mountain peak at some time in history. Some of the mountains in this region of the country around you were once as high as the Himalayas. Over millions of years, time, erosion and other geologic processes have worn them down into the gentle ridges seen today. By comparison, the Rocky Mountains, with their high peaks and sharp rock formations, are much younger.

These mountains formed during through several major geologic events. One event occurred when what is now Africa collided into North America. DuPont State Forest is actually situated on what once was a large volcanic island, similar to Japan. When this island collided into North America during that geologic event, it formed the Brevard Fault. The Brevard Fault cuts through the French Broad River valley and is, fortunately for us, relatively inactive.

The rock formations of the forest are the remains of deep, frozen magma chambers that formed beneath the volcanoes. Our local mountains, such as Stone Mountain, are the remaining roots of these ancient volcanoes. If you've ever been to Caesar's Head and looked hundreds of feet down the Blue Ridge Escarpment into the piedmont, you have you've actually seen the approximate edge of the volcanic island, and looked back in time. When this island collided into North America, it formed the Brevard Fault.

Most of the rocks in DuPont are gneisses. They are the gray and white rocks and rock formations that you see on the trails. Gneiss is formed when granite is subjected to metamorphic conditions (intense heat and pressure) deep below Earth's surface. These gneisses were folded, faulted, and fractured during the mountain building events. Uplifting, erosion and exfoliation have brought them to the surface in their present condition. Rivers and streams tend to follow fractures and this movement has held true for the largest water system in the DuPont Forest. All of the four major waterfalls of the Little River, Hooker Falls, Triple Falls, High Falls and Bridal Veil, and High Falls occur along a fracture which joins the Brevard Fault near approximate to the Little River confluence on the French Broad. Generally, rivers and streams tend to follow fractures.

Mountains such as Big Rock are the remaining roots of ancient volcanoes known as plutons. Additionally, it is possible that the geology of DuPont State Forest was also affected by an ancient meteor impact. Scholars hypothesize that the impact zone ranges from U.S 276, in Cedar Mountain, to the Pink Beds in Pisgah National Forest. Future explorations will provide an answer to this mystery.

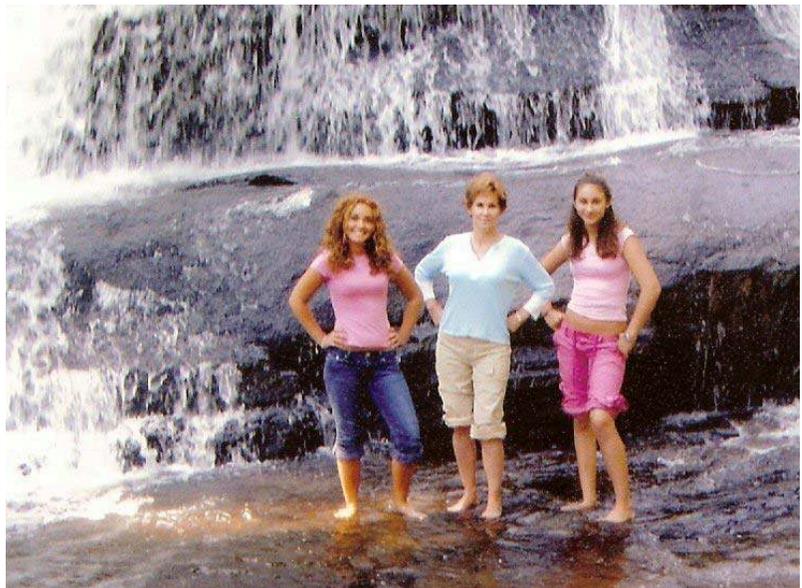




Some things never change. More than 100 years after her Grandmother, Parthenia's von Ostoff, dared to bare a knee at the base of Triple Falls, Granddaughter Donna Katz with daughters Courtney & Samantha Hartman, rolled up their trousers and waded in Little River at the base of Triple Falls. This treasured photo was found in Parthenia's belongings, along with a journal entry describing an 1896 camping trip to Buck Forest, on the same lands we now know as DuPont State Forest.

Back then, the trip from Hendersonville by horse and buggy, meant traveling from before sunup till dark, with camp gear and provisions carried by mules. Mr. von Ostoff's state of the art photography equipment, the heavy camera, plates and tripod that made this photo possible, were carefully packed and watched over by the family as they bumped along the dirt roads. Days later, after hours spent in the dark room developing the images, Mr. von Ostoff was able to print and share the pictures.

Fast forward to 2006. Parthenia's Granddaughter and Great Granddaughters drove from Hendersonville to DuPont Forest in about 30 minutes by car. They took photos taken with a pocket sized digital camera (which could be flashed across the continent in a mere moment to friends and relations. But happily found among the constants in a rapidly changing world, the time to share moments of laughter at the base of Triple Falls.



Tour de Falls

Friends of DuPont Forest will again sponsor the annual Tour de Falls on Saturday October 21 and Sunday October 22, 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.



Ray & Lettie Qualls along with Loretta & Dennis Dunham leave the hospitality area at Lake Julia at the end of May 2006 Tour de Falls.



Kim Hendrix of the Pisgah Trail Blazers helps a guest off the bus at Bridal Veil Falls.

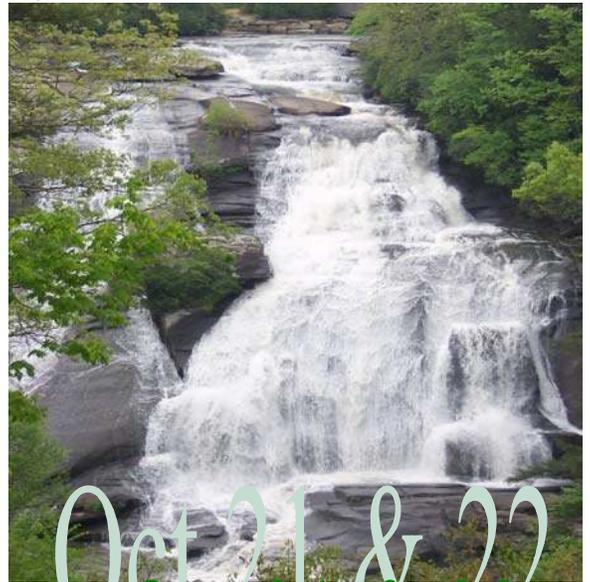
Friends of DuPont Forest is a non-profit corporation that assists the Forest Service with over-all maintenance of the 10,600 acres and works to have the forest be accessible by all user groups. The Tour de Falls weekends have been designed to provide fun days especially for families and for those that 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 21 & 22
Oct 21 & 22

Handicap friendly 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 this flyer
and post on
your refrigerator**

Join or Renew Now

If you don't remember when your yearly membership renewal expires, contact Gloria Clouse at volunteers@dupontforest.com

- | | |
|--|--|
| <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 when you join or renew your membership with FODF

How do you want your Friends of DuPont newsletter delivered?

The Little River Watermark is published three times a year. We would like to thank Nancy Black, editor, for taking on the task and producing an informative and attractive newsletter. We send out an electronic copy of the newsletter to all members with a valid e-mail address. You can also read the current issues and archived issues on the www.dupontforest.com website. Click on Newsletters on the left of the screen. For members who do not have an e-mail address or who have not requested e-mail delivery, we send a printed copy by first class mail. We are happy to supply The Little River Watermark in the form you like best. If you wish to receive an e-mail copy instead of the printed version or if you are currently not receiving a printed version and wish to request that form of delivery, let us know at membership@dupontforest.com and we will update your profile so you get the news that best way for you!

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

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

