

## President's Corner

Approximately 60 FODF members attended the annual FODF membership meeting at Henderson County Library on April 25th. Outgoing board members Fred Roane, Stephanie Morrow, Tom Fanslow and Kent Wilcox were recognized. In coming board members are Susan Platt (art teacher, equine specialist), Kathy Reiff (teacher, hiker), Valerie Naylor (trails services business, mountain biker), and Chad Campbell (environmental consultant and landscape designer, field instructor with Muddy Sneakers).

L.T. Ward and Linda Lamp of WNC Communities gave a brief history and description of WNCC. WNC Communities serves 20 counties in western NC providing a forum for leadership and improvement of quality of life in WNC. Some of the WNCC projects are an interactive exhibit at the Cradle of Forestry, scholarship programs, and innovations in forestry and agricultural programs. WNCC is managing the funding and contracting the completion of the Aleen Steinberg Center. Work is on-going now, and the ASC is set to open July 1.

David Brown, Forest Supervisor, gave an overview of trends in the forest since the state acquired the bulk of the forest land in 1997. In 2012 there were approximately 358,000 visitors to DuPont State Recreational Forest. Volunteer hours have increased with FODF being the largest volunteer group.

The forest service will select a new Forest Supervisor who will begin working in the forest in May as David Brown, the current Supervisor, will retire on June 30.

The pedestrian bridge at Hooker Falls will be completed this summer. Work is on-going now on a new parking lot at Hooker Falls. With the new bridge and parking lot at Hooker, and the closure of Galax Trail, the proposed Sheep Mt Connector is of utmost importance for long distance users (runners, mountain bikers, equestrians).

If you haven't hiked the now opened High Falls Extension trail, check it out! It's a crushed limestone groomed trail (hikers only) with a beautiful bridge. And opening June 1st is the Turkey Knob-Briery Fork connector trail (Turkey Knob Trail).

The Blue Ghost Fireflies will be out soon... and the yellow lady slippers. It's going to be an exciting summer.

## Bev Parlier, FODF President



Hooker Falls parking lot under construction



Aleen Steinberg Center under construction



Bev at the new Turkey Knob trail



A new High Falls trail bridge

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See you on the trails~

*Bev Parlier*

*Friends of DuPont Forest President*



## News About the Forest

David R. Brown, DSRF Forest Supervisor

Several major projects are currently underway in the forest. An additional 60-car parking lot is under construction near Hooker Falls. NCFCS personnel from the Asheville Regional Office, the Asheville District Office and the BRIDGE unit in Morganton are assisting and providing equipment for the parking lot construction. The new lot will not be open to public parking until the nearby trail bridge is completed.

The NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will construct a recreational trail bridge connecting Hooker Falls Road to Triple Falls Trail. The objective is to improve visitor safety by providing more off-road parking and allow visitors to get to Triple Falls without walking along the highway or crossing the highway bridge. Bridge construction is scheduled to start in May and will take about two months to complete. Hooker Falls access area, Hooker Falls, Holly, and Moore Cemetery Roads will be closed during the construction. The new parking lot will be used as a staging area for the bridge construction.



Grading work being done on the addition to the Hooker Falls parking lot

Grand opening of the Aleen Steinberg Center (ASC) is scheduled for July 1. The ASC will be used to educate forest visitors. It will contain exhibits on the history of the area including early settlement, the Buck Forest Hunt Club, DuPont manufacturing, Summit Camps and the creation of the State Forest. Exhibits will also present aspects of the multiple use forest, including recreation, water quality, forest and wildlife management and natural and cultural resource protection. There will be a small classroom downstairs for group meetings and educational programs. Watch the FODF website for details of the July 1, 2013 grand opening. Preparation of the DSRF master plan is under way. HH Architecture in Raleigh is collecting information about the forest, and will have a draft plan to present for public comment this summer. The plan will address immediate needs and long term forest development.



Iris Dwarf

All pictures on this page are courtesy of David Brown, DSRF Supervisor

The visitor center and master plan projects are funded with TVA settlement money administered by WNC Communities, a non-profit organization that promotes rural economies. The recreational bridge is funded by NCDOT, and they are also providing gravel for the new parking lot. The NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation is assisting with the parking lot and bridge projects. The NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is providing leadership and coordination of the projects.

Long Cane Trails, LLC has completed the current trail contract. The \$44,476 contract included the High Falls Trail extension from the ASC to Triple Falls Trail, the Turkey Knob Trail extension to Briery Fork Trail, a minor re-route on Grassy Meadow Trail and a re-route on Grassy Creek Trail. FODF is funding the trail improvements. The High Falls Trail extension is open for use, but the more recently completed trail work will not open until the trails settle and dry out.



Pedestrian bridge on the trail to be constructed from the visitor center to High Falls



## News About the Forest Cont..

David R. Brown, DSRF Forest Supervisor

### Forest Staff Update

Bob Twomey started on January 2 as the DSRF Welcome Center Manager. He is actively recruiting and training volunteers to help staff the ASC when it opens in July. Bob retired from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service last November. He is a graduate of Brevard College and NC State University. Bob lives in Cedar Mountain.

Jeremy Waldrop is the new Education Ranger replacing Roberta Belcher who retired in December. Jeremy was formally an environmental specialist with the NCFS fuels mitigation program, and prior to that was the assistant Buncombe County Ranger. We welcome Jeremy to the DSRF staff.

Michael A. Sweat has accepted the Management Forester position at DSRF replacing Brian Schneider. Michael will start on Tuesday, May 28th. He currently works for NC State University Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources. He manages the NCSU multiple use forests, including Schenck Forest in Wake County that receives a high level of recreational use. Michael is a graduate of Brevard High School and NC State University with a BS degree in Forest Management.

Forest Supervisor, David Brown will retire this summer. The new forest supervisor will be selected in May and start in June to work with David before he leaves.

### Volunteers Needed

Bob Twomey has a list of volunteers that will help staff the Aleen Steinberg Center when it opens in July, but we need more. The center will be open seven days per week this summer and fall. That will take lots of dedicated volunteers. If you would like to spend time in the forest and enjoy working with the public, consider volunteering in the ASC. Bob hopes to have enough people so volunteers will only need to work three or four days per month for ½ day or full day shifts. If interested call Bob at 828-877-6527.

## Notice to FODF Members

Bob Towney, DSRF Welcome Center Manager

**The Aleen Steinberg Center (ASC) will officially open in July 2013. This is an exciting time for FODF and DuPont State Recreational Forest! We want that first impression when visitors walk into the center to be one they won't forget. We will need friendly, knowledgeable staff of volunteers to answer questions and help visitors plan their visits. This will require many more people than the current FODF host program provides. We hope to use many FODF volunteers, but will also use non-FODF volunteers. All ASC volunteers will be considered DSRF Volunteers, and as such will need to complete an NCFS Volunteer Application. ASC Volunteers will receive patches and T-shirts, so they will be easily recognizable when on duty. FODF will get credit for all hours their members contribute toward operation of the ASC.**

**We will need a sizable cadre of volunteers to staff the center efficiently. It is not too early to start planning for the opening of the ASC. Please consider becoming a volunteer and begin a part of the new phase in the development of DSRF.**

**Contact the DSRF office (828)887-6527 for a NCFS Volunteer application. They can be sent by e-mail or regular mail. The application has a check box for working in the ASC, but also has several other fields of interest. You can select the ones you will consider filling.**

**Bob Twomey**

**DSRF Welcome Center Manager**

**(828)887-6527**

**Bob.Twomey@ncagr.gov**

# Events Calendar 2013

Date	Event	Contact	Phone (828)	Limit
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Trail Work Days</b> Volunteers' work days are scheduled the second Saturday of each Month to maintain trails at DuPont	Rella Allred	749-5626	None
May 11&12	<b>Tour de Falls</b> <i>Many Volunteers needed.</i>	Lyle Burgmann Dan Bresnahan	864-399-3071 884-6806	Open to Public
May 23 & 24	<b>Blue Ghost Firefly Walk</b> Learn about and see these enchanting blue-light resident insects. High Falls parking lot at 9:00 PM	Aleen Steinberg	885-2477	25
5/18/13	<b>Litter Pick-up</b> Join the Litter-Haters! Meet at Lake Imaging parking lot at 9:00 AM	Dan Bresnahan	884-6806	None
5/28/13	<b>Friends of DuPont Forest Board Meeting</b> Meet at 6:30 at Guion Farm	Bev Parlier	883-9278	
6/1/13	<b>National Trails Day -- DuPont Trails Day</b> Support trail improvements on DuPont's 80+ miles of trails.	Rella Allred	749-5626	None
6/15/13	<b>A Walk With Muddy Sneakers -- You'll love it!</b> Explore and learn as the 5th graders do in the Muddy Sneakers program. Corn Mill Shoals lot -- 9:00 til 3:00	Fred Roane	595-4181	25
7/1/13	<b>Aleen Steinberg Center dedication</b> Actual date and time to be determined. Stay posted to emails and website for details.			Members
7/17/13	<b>Mountain Medicine</b> What herbs, roots and bark might soothe your aches, or soul? Time and place TBD.	Devin Gentry	553-5021	20
7/20/13	<b>Litter Pick-up</b> Join the Litter-Haters! Meet at Lake Imaging parking lot at 9:00 AM	Dan Bresnahan	884-6806	None
7/23/13	<b>Friends of DuPont Forest Board Meeting</b> Meet at 6:30 at Guion Farm	Bev Parlier	883-9278	
8/17/13	<b>Botanical Walk at Guion Farm</b> Join Jenny Lellingner to identify and enjoy wild plants of DuPont. Meet at Guion Farm at 10:00	Peg Bresnahan	884-6806	25
8/24/13	<b>Mushroom Hike with Ham and Renee Hamilton</b> Don't eat them until you know they're safe. Holmes Educational Forest -- 10:00	Fred Roane	595-4181	20

This is a schedule of planned events for 2013. More details will be available later for each event in the FODF newsletter and by email. Reservations are taken one month before the event where there is a limit of participants. Some events are for FODF Members only. To make a reservation, contact the board member listed or e-mail your reservation to [events@dupontforest.com](mailto:events@dupontforest.com)

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

## Tour de Falls Lyle Burgmann, Tour de Falls Coordinator & FODF Board Member

As you read this, the Mothers' Day version of the Tour de Falls is likely over. If you attended, I hope you enjoyed it. If you were a volunteer, thank you very much. If you didn't participate, you will have another chance this year. The fall Tour de Falls will be held on October 12th and 13th. Mark your calendars now. Tell your friends!

For the uninitiated, Tour De Falls is the semi-annual FODF guided bus tour of the most beautiful sights DuPont State Recreational Forest has to offer. The stops on the Tour include Triple Falls, High Falls, Bridal Veil Falls and Lake Julia. Visitors get off at each stop to enjoy the sights and explore the Forest.

FODF sponsors this event for two reasons. First is the enjoyment our guests get from experiencing the wonders of DuPont Forest. Second are the donations generated by the Tour, which allow FODF to contribute to the preservation and improvement of the Forest.

Thanks to the many people who contribute to successful Tours, especially the FODF volunteers, David Brown and the DuPont Forest staff, and the DuPont Corporation.

See you at the next Tour!  
Lyle Burgmann  
Tour de Falls Coordinator

## Trail Committee Report

Rella Allred, Trail Committee Chairman

First, I have to praise the FODF Trail Volunteers who have worked in the forest every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in the last year! This devoted crew, which fondly calls itself the "Department of *Trail Corrections*", has become quite knowledgeable in the area of keeping water drainage areas open on the trails, correct trimming and clearing methods for safety (line of sight on trails) and improving trails to provide a positive forest experience for all users. All their efforts have contributed a great deal to keeping our wonderful trail system sustainable and enjoyable and have lessened any negative impact on the forest environment. The leadership of Forest Supervisor David Brown, and Chuck Ramsey has been invaluable. Thank you!

This year there have been several contracted trail improvements paid for by FODF which will greatly benefit forest users. The new section of High Falls Trail that begins at the soon-to-be-finished Aleen Steinberg Visitor Center at the High Falls Access not only provides a beautiful route to the falls for hikers, it is handicapped accessible to those using wheel chairs and they will now be able to visit the falls. All of Grassy Creek Trail has now been improved. This is now a great trail. Grassy Meadow Trail has been improved at the water crossing areas to protect water quality in the forest. A connection between Turkey Knob Trail and Briery Fork Trail is due to open June 1<sup>st</sup>, FODF members will be invited to a ribbon cutting on the new trail June 1<sup>st</sup> to celebrate DuPont Trails Day. Look for details to be announced. The bridge over Little River near Hooker Falls, which will be completed this summer, will improve safety for hikers going between Hooker Falls and Triple Falls.

Also in June, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, there will be an Equestrian Safety Clinic held in the forest sponsored by FODF, NC Forest Service, Pisgah Trailblazer Equestrian Group, and DuPont Equestrian Group. A professional horse trainer, Calvin Halford, will take four horses and riders at a time out on the trails. Participants will learn specific techniques in order to stay safe on their horse in a multi-use forest. Call Rella at 828-749-5626 or email [rella@tds.net](mailto:rella@tds.net) for further information.



Pictures were taken on March 9th during a trail work day



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](mailto:newsletter@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**

