



Friends of State Parks

Supporting the State Parks of North Carolina since 1973

P O Box 37655
Raleigh, NC 27627
Web: www.ncfsp.org

Winter 2011

Notes From the President

by David Pearson

Membership...

As we prepare for 2011 and we Take Flight with the first Friends of State Parks Conference in Nags Head on January 21-23, 2011, let us focus on building membership.

Much of the conference will be about Friends Groups organizing and being successful. But, we also need to focus on membership. The conference is a great opportunity to ask someone who shares your passion for State Parks to join you in not only learning about North Carolina State Parks, but getting involved in the mission of North Carolina State Parks.

All State Parks have unique qualities and all have great dedicated staff and some have Friends Groups that help out with many projects and funding needs. We need to build on the emotional connections we have with people who share our common interest in conservation, recreation, and environmental education. We need to ask our friends and associates to join with us in supporting our cause, our Charity.

Friends of State Parks, Inc. is our charity! It supports the mission of North Carolina State Parks and we need to build our team.

The current economic climate makes for tough times. Many tough decisions will have to be made in 2011 that will impact North Carolina State Parks. The size and focus of our membership will be a factor in our ability to advocate for our parks or for the division.

Building membership is simple. Ask a friend or associate who shares your interest in State Parks to join Friends of State Parks. It's that simple! Just Ask a Friend!

We can grow from a small passionate group of park supporters to a large voice that is heard from Murphy to Manteo. And, at \$20 a year in membership dues our cost of membership is reasonable for most families. For each additional 1,000 members we

attain we will have an additional \$20,000 to support the mission of our Parks.

It is simple math. Many statewide organizations have 10,000 or more members, why shouldn't we. Every year we struggle with budget constraints when we look at a request to support a park ranger who needs to attend an educational seminar, or we have a request for an animal mount or other educational exhibit. We search for corporate grants to support our ongoing projects like Junior Ranger or the Division's annual report.

How different would it be if we received dues from 10,000 family memberships each year? When one of our Parks has a need for advocacy, how different would it be if we had thousands of advocates calling and making their concerns heard?

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320 Young Poets Entered Mount Jefferson SNA Poetry Contest



The 2010 Mount Jefferson SNA Poetry contest was a winner with over 320 poets participating. Thank you FSP members for your support with the prizes.

FSP

FSP Welcomes Two New Board Members

Jane Hunt has lived in the Raleigh area for over 40 years, raising four children, and teaching pre-school children before retirement. Her husband's avocation was Gandhi scholarship which led them to several other continents for research. About herself, Jane says "Interests in Social Action and involvement in community activities sometimes have to wait while I walk in the woods."

Chandler Palethorpe is native to Chapel Hill, and a life-long outdoorsman. As a child he explored the woods about the Durham and Chapel Hill area, collected insects, and learned about the plants and creatures. Now he lives and works in Gibsonville, but still enjoys exploring woods, along with his wife Emily, and three children. Chandler came on board to help future generations have woods to explore.

Re-elected to the board were John Boesch, Sidney Shearin, Dwayne Stutzman, Billy Totten, Alec Whittaker, Jim Richardson and Bob Sowa



Chandler Palethorpe & Jane Hunt

The Junior Ranger Program

by Dorothy Graham

A growing number of young people ages 6 -12 are becoming Junior Rangers—to date over 500 with over 200 registering to receive emails and the newsletter "Turtle Tracks". This summer Haw River SP had a week-long Junior Ranger

camp with 40 participants.

Patches are continuing to be designed and by the end of 2011 every park is expected to have its unique patch to recognize Junior Rangers who complete the program.

The Junior Ranger Committee is looking to FSP members to help promote the JURA program in all 39 state parks. For information, you may contact sean.higgins@ncdenr.gov or Dorothy Graham at dorothyg@ncfsp.org.

Expanded Outreach Through Social Media

by John Boesch

The FSP web site <http://ncfsp.org> continues to be a valued source of information regarding FSP projects, meetings and state park issues. If you have visited the web site in recent months, you will have noticed additional links to Facebook and Twitter. As part of our ongoing mission to promote and advocate North Carolina State Parks, Facebook and Twitter allow FSP to have a global presence. People in Australia, Canada, France, Great Britain, South Korea and Japan follow the FSP Twitter site. To date, FSP has 670 followers on Twitter, 321 followers on the Facebook group page and 112 followers on the Facebook fan are posted.

On a monthly basis, the schedule for each park's events and news stories about a particular park are posted. As members, you are encouraged to post on FSP Facebook group page information, pictures and videos of your park visits. I also hope that other friends groups will post events regarding their favorite park.

If you are not a member on the Facebook group or fan page please join us there and invite your friends to join. The Facebook fan page is set up to receive all the Twitter posts to help keep everyone up to date. There is a direct link to the FB fan page located just under the FSP FB group page. With more active users, we can all be better informed and connected. The main point is to show that North Carolina and the state parks are a viable Eco-tourism destination.

Cliffs of the Neuse State Park Hosts FSP

Cliffs of the Neuse State Park hosted the October 30th FSP annual general meeting. Ranger Joel Jakubowski gave a cordial welcome and at the end of the meeting gave a tour of the soon-to-be-opened visitor's center. Carol Tingley, Deputy Director of the Division, updated the board on land acquisition and strategic directions. Two new board members were elected. Board president David Pearson challenged the board to recruit new FSP members.. The next board meeting will be on January 21st at Jockey's Ridge State Park and will be held in conjunction with the Friends of State Parks conference which FSP is helping sponsor.

Cliffs of the Neuse

by Jane Hunt

The tributaries of the Neuse River flow into Falls Lake, and the water then pours over the dam and travels East until reaching the Atlantic Ocean. As the river passes just South of Goldsboro it makes a sharp turn to the left because it splashes into sandy cliffs which are ninety feet high. These cliffs were caused by a fault in the earth's crust millions of years ago.

The first humans to have lived in this area were the Tuscarora Indians in the early 1700's. Unfortunately they were either mostly killed or driven away by the British, though some were able to travel North where they joined the Iroquois. The Saponi Indians also came from this area, but apparently they also traveled Northward due to wars with other Indians. The British were the next settlers establishing a trading center which fostered stagecoach travel as well as more river traffic. One used to be able to take a riverboat from the coast up to the Cliffs. During the Civil War, an ironclad ramming vessel, the CSS Neuse, was built nearby. It belonged to the Confederate Navy and was built to challenge the Union control of the coastal waters. The CSS Neuse ran aground and was never used, but is preserved in a small park near Kinston, NC. The next attraction to the area came with the discovery of mineral waters (Seven Springs) which were said to have healing powers. If that did not work, there were also multiple whiskey stills which poured forth another kind of healing power.

In 1945, Lionel Weil, a local landowner donated land

to the State for a Park, and the Cliffs of the Neuse was born. Today you can visit and you have your choice of hiking, swimming in a spring fed lake, fishing, camping, picnicking or choosing to spend time in the brand new soon to open environmentally friendly museum.

If you had happened upon the Park on October 29th, you would have had to share it with 2500 others who came for Halloween. A night of Trunk or Treat (people decorate their car trunks and hand out candy), haunted and narrated hay rides, a trail containing a headless horseman, the Devil's Campground, and other reenactments of NC ghost stories such as the railroad man who loses his head in an accident as he searched a strange light with his lantern. His body was buried, but his head was never found; and John O. Lawson, English writer and explorer, who was burned at the stake by the Tuscarora Indians.

This evening was staffed by 40 volunteers from the area and though the Park gates closed at 11 p.m., the party lasted until 1:30 a.m. A very memorable event which must have introduced many newcomers to the Park. Missed it?? They are also scheduling a Tree Lighting event in December. Both of these events are absolutely free and each year have gained in popularity.

(Notes from the President, continued from page 1)
Now, I know everyone reading this is saying to themselves... OK, Dave, just slow down now! And you are right. We can take this slow. Next year is not the year of the rabbit. It is the year of the Turtle. And we can accomplish our goal slow and steady. Just like the turtle.

All each supporter of North Carolina's State Parks needs to do, whether a FSP member, park staff member or Park Advisory Member, is get just one new member signed up each month. That would be just 12 new members per year per State Park supporter. Now if each park has just 10 supporters and they join Friends of State Parks, Inc. and if they each ask someone to join Friends of State Parks each month. Then we could easily have over 5,000 new members by the end of 2011.

I challenge each one of you to simply get one person a month to join Friends of State Parks, Inc.

It's as easy as asking them to go on line at <http://ncfsp.org/mship1.html>

Friends of State Parks
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Please send me:

- North Carolina State Parks Map Guide @ \$19.95 (\$15) + \$3 S&H = \$22.95 each
- Guide to the Snakes of North Carolina @ \$10.00 (\$8) + \$2 S&H = \$12.00 each
- Exploring the Geology of the Carolinas @ \$19.95 (\$15) + \$2.50 S&H = \$22.45 each
- North Carolina State Parks: A Niche Guide @ \$14.95 (\$12) + \$2 S&H = \$16.95 each
- Jawbone Trail Cookbook @ \$10 (\$7) + \$2.50 S&H = \$12.50 each

Note: FSP members prices in parenthesis

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & Zip _____

January 21-23, 2011 "How to Make your Friends Group Take Flight"

All park staff, friends groups and Park advisory committee members and park advocates are encouraged to attend.

Location: Ramada Inn, Kill Devil Hills, NC

*Presented by Friends of State Parks and Friends of Jockey's Ridge.

For more info contact: David Pearson, FSP-davidp@ncfsp.org

Peggy Birkemeier, FJR-- pbirk@nccommunityfoundation.org

2011 FSP board meetings are:

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|-------|--|
| 1/21 | Friends Conference, Nags Head - 4pm |
| 1/23 | Additional (public) FSP meeting 8:30am |
| 4/30 | Singletary Lake - 11am |
| 7/30 | Stone Mtn - 10am |
| 10/29 | Medoc Mtn - 11am |