



Friends of State Parks

Supporting the State Parks of North Carolina Since 1973

Autumn 2012

PO Box 37655
Raleigh NC 27627
Web: www.ncfsp.org

Message from the President

From David Pearson

I LOVE MY STATE PARKS — February 6, 2013

State Parks friends will be celebrating North Carolina State Parks at our 2013 conference to be held at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in downtown Raleigh. This will be an incredible opportunity for park supporters to visit Green Square and get to know division staff and tour the new division offices.

The conference is planned to be a one day event starting at 9:00 AM. We plan to will for most of the day in the William G. Ross, Jr. Environmental Conference Center on the fourth floor of the Nature Research Center. Then at 4 PM VIP Tours of the museum and the new Division offices will be offered. A legislative reception is planned from 5:30 until 8:00 PM.

We are planning great and inspiring speakers. We would like to cover several topics including strategic planning, legislative advocacy, fundraising, communication and collaboration with other Friends groups.

With the election over, 2013 will bring many new leaders from across our state to Raleigh and we need to show our support for State Parks. Get your Valentine Cards ready and share your love for NC State Parks!

Our goal is everyone will leave saying... I love MY State Parks!!!



FSP members, with Supt. Fullwood, getting a walk in ahead of Hurricane Sandy at Goose Creek State Park

Goose Creek State Park Hosts FSP Annual Meeting

Being introduced to a state park is always an attraction for those attending FSP quarterly board meetings. Goose Creek State Park superintendent John Fullwood made sure all who attended the FSP annual general meeting on October 27th were well introduced to the park and had an opportunity to get outside, hike along the boardwalk, and view wetlands before Hurricane Sandy blew in to Beaufort County. Adrian O'Neal, district superintendent, highlighted the state parks in the east district with slides and a report of recent activity.

In addition to hearing reports on park festivals, local friends groups, youth in parks environmental education initiatives, and plans for a 2013 Friends conference, FSP members elected board members and officers for the next two years. David Pearson was re-elected president and Morgan Richardson Lloyd was elected secretary. Jim Richardson will be continuing as vice president and Lindsey Hobbs as treasurer. Elected as new board members were Cyndy Weeks and Mary Fletcher. Cyndy is a family physician and an outdoor enthusiast. She is currently involved with NC State Parks in developing the Deep River State Trail, which borders the Moncure Community Health Center, for public use. Integrating the trail system into patient care is part of her shared vision. Mary Fletcher is a retired teacher who likes backpacking and wilderness camping. She has assisted in promoting the Junior Ranger program and getting students outside into state parks. You can find a complete listing of board members on the back page of your newsletter.



History and Images of Goose Creek

By Jane Hunt

Goose Creek State Park is located on the north side of the Pamlico River, about halfway between Washington and Bath. The area was first populated by the Tuscarora Indians who met a sad end either during an Indian War in the late 1700's, or were captured by European settlers and sold as slaves or died from disease. Next came the pirates, the most famous one being Blackbeard, who used this land as a safe haven. The land was later used for tobacco and timber, the shores for commercial fishing, and finally, at the initiative of local citizens, sold to the State for a Park in 1974.

The Park is small and probably gets its name from Goose Creek which flows into the Pamlico River. The Pamlico River flows into the Pamlico Sound which is tidal salt water. When the sound water meets the fresh water from upstream, it creates brackish waters in the marshlands of the park. During high tides and storms, if the salt water stays too long, it kills the vegetation, resulting in many dead trees. The trees then become havens for birds and insects and currently stand tall and beautifully draped with Spanish moss. Seven trails through the Park wind around between the open marshland and the tree-filled swamp. Many of the trails have long boardwalks which will allow you to keep your feet dry as you walk through what would normally be an inaccessible area.

If you can stay for a while at the park, you will find primitive camping, picnic areas, a visitor center, canoe trails, a sandy beach for swimming and an opportunity to fish. To give you an idea of the feel of the park I noticed in the official description brochure these words: "unhurried rhythm of nature, quiet slow moving creeks, relaxation, peacefulness" and the final sentence saying, "a hectic pace is not permitted."

Youth in Parks – Environmental Education (YIP-EE)

During the 2012-13 school year, FSP is making mini-grants available to Friends Groups to work in partnership with their state park and a public elementary or middle school to get school kids outside into the state park for environmental education and exploration. The grants can be used to pay for transportation to the park and for healthy snacks. In October, a grant application form and planning and implementation guidelines were mailed to Friends Groups and park superintendents that are connected with Friends groups. For more information, contact Dorothy Graham, YIP-EE program committee chair, at dorothyg@ncfsp.org.

FSP continues to work in partnership with Sean Higgins, the Division's I & E program manager, to encourage participation in the Junior Ranger program among youth ages 6 to 12. Thus far, there are 2000 junior rangers who have fulfilled the program requirements — park-based activities, a stewardship project, a stewardship pledge—and then received a junior ranger patch. Thirty-two state parks now have distinctive patches, and the remaining seven are in process. Our thanks to Great Outdoor Provision Co. for providing major funding support for the activity booklets, patches, and a Junior Ranger newsletter "Turtle Tracks and Turkey Tails!"

Our Gorgeous Day at Gorges

Renee Pagano, language arts teacher at Brevard Middle School in Transylvania County, had a vision for a "Survival Day" at Gorges State Park for seventh graders. With enthusiastic support from the other seventh grade teachers, Renee began meeting with Gorges Park Ranger Mary Smith to plan the day. Together they decided to cover shelter building, animal identification, orienteering, and the ten essentials of staying alive in the wilderness and to schedule the outing for November 5th when the new visitors' center would be opened and could accommodate such a large group. Ranger Smith came up with locations, instructors and a schedule. State curriculum standards to be covered were determined: language arts, social

studies, healthy living, science and 21st Century Skills. Renee met with Tom Thomas who chairs the Gorges State Park Friends Group to go over the plans for the day and to request funding assistance to pay for transportation from the school to the park and for snacks. Together they submitted an application to Friends of State Parks and received a \$400 YIP-EE mini-grant.

Renee's report of the trip makes you wish you could have been there. It is filled with planning and implementation details that can offer guidance to FSP in encouraging other Friends Groups, State Parks and Schools in their own environmental education field trips. Here's some of what she had to say:

Continued on page 5

News from State Parks Friends Groups

FSP Welcomes Two New Friends Groups

Friends of Cliffs of the Neuse

FSP welcomes *Friends of Cliffs of the Neuse* as a new FSP chapter and congratulates the *East District* for being the first to have 100% of its parks with Friends Groups coverage—a local and statewide milestone. There are eight state parks in the *East District*. At the October 27 board meeting, FSP approved the *Friends of Cliffs of the Neuse* application to join FSP as a chapter.

In a letter to Adrian O’Neal, East District Superintendent, Jim Richardson, FSP vice president, highlighted the significance of having a local friends group for each park to “provide readily available support, both financially and volunteers, that can be much more responsive to a park’s needs than the state-wide FSP. This can be especially helpful executing park projects in difficult economic times with limited budgets. In addition, local people are better placed to gain support from the neighboring businesses and community, resulting in a greater appreciation of the park by local residents. Expanding the good reputations our parks have with their local communities can also result in favorable positions from local legislators - an important benefit in these times.”

Friends of Morrow Mountain

The application for Friends of *Morrow Mountain State Park* was approved by the Friends of State Parks Board on October 27, 2012, making this the 28th chapter to organize under FSP in North Carolina. Though the chapter is new, the membership is strong with 66 dedicated volunteers. Elected officers for 2012-13 are: Chair: Vanessa Mullinix, Vice Chair: John Young, Secretary: Tanya Davis, and Treasurer: Tevis Smith. At-large directors for the year are Walter Deppe, Jim Barfield, and Phil Lowder. Committees have been organized in the areas of History, Promotion and Advocacy, Hiking, Trail Management, and Special Events. With new officers and bylaws now in place, the members of the chapter are eager to move forward as committed champions for Morrow Mountain State Park. First activity on the list for this group was lending support for Morrow Mountain’s Old Fashioned Day held Sunday, November 4th. Friends of Morrow Mountain Chair, Vanessa Mullinix stated, “We are happy to be official, and look forward to our new partnership and meeting folks from other North Carolina chapters in the future. To learn more about us, please visit our website at <http://morrowmountain.org>. “Congratulations, Friends of Morrow Mountain State Park!

You can now stay up-to-date on Friends Groups by visiting their websites:

Friends of Chimney Rock:	www.friendsofchimneyrockstatepark.org
Friends of Cowder’s Mountain:	http://www.friendsofcrowdersmountain.org
Eno River Association:	www.enoriver.org
Friends of Fort Macon:	www.Friendsoffortmacon.org
Friends of Haw River State Park:	www.FriendsofHawRiverSP.org
Friends of High Country State Parks:	http://friendsofhcsp.wordpress.com/
Friends of Jockey’s Ridge State Park:	www.jockeysridgestatepark.com
Friends of Lake James:	http://friendsofljssp.org
Friends of Merchants Millpond:	http://friendsofthemillpond.snappages.com/
Friends of Morrow Mountain:	www.morrowmountain.org
Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail:	www.ncmst.org
Friends of Raven Rock:	www.friendsofravenrock.org
Friends of Sauratown Mountains, Inc:	http://www.sauratownfriends.org/home
Wm. B. Umstead:	http://umsteadcoalition.org

News from the Parks Division

New District Superintendents

Dave Cook, is succeeding Erik Nygard as north district superintendent. Most recently superintendent at Hanging Rock State Park, Dave was also a longtime superintendent at Eno River State Park and served as a park ranger at Falls Lake State Recreation Area and Morrow Mountain State Park.

Erik's retirement November 1 ended a 28-year career with the state parks system as a ranger, education specialist, park superintendent and north district superintendent. Friends and Parks Division associates gathered October 19 to honor Erik at a community center just outside the gates of Eno River State Park where he began as a seasonal employee, and later served as a ranger in 1982.

Sean McElhone, park superintendent at Lake James State Park, has accepted the west district superintendent position. He succeeds Tom Jackson who retired October 1. Sean began as park superintendent at Lake James in 2007 after serving as superintendent at Fort Fisher State Recreation Area and a ranger at Hammocks Beach and Jones Lake state parks

Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Allocates \$11.7 million

At its quarterly meeting at Gorges State Park on October 12, the N.C. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Authority (PARTF) allocated \$11.7 million from the fund for several capital improvement projects, maintenance across the state parks system and key land acquisitions. PARTF is the principal funding source for state park capital projects and land acquisition. For a listing of grants, visit the Division website www.ncparks.gov.

A Weather Phenomenon

Perhaps for the first time ever, weather closed state parks in eastern North Carolina and in the mountains simultaneously. In the east it was because of hurricane winds and rain and in the mountains it was because of snowfall. Fortunately, Hurricane Sandy did no serious damage to state parks and all reopened quickly.

Record Park Visitation

N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation reports a record year for visitation of state parks with 11.9 million visitors, up 2 percent from the same period in 2011. "Our continued high visitation reflects the appreciation North Carolinians have for their outdoor resources, as well as recognition that state parks continue to be a safe, affordable and nearby quality outdoor recreation option in a sluggish economy," noted Lewis Ledford, state parks director. For detailed information on individual state park visitations, visit www.ncparks.gov.

Mt. Jefferson State Natural Area

Mt. Jefferson State Natural Area celebrated the anniversary of the establishment of the park 56 years ago on October 14th. There were children's activities, ranger programs, a giant birthday card for all to sign and free birthday cake.

The Mt Jefferson Poetry Contest is in full swing for K - 3rd graders and 4th - 6th graders in Ashe County Schools. Submission deadline is Dec. 14th.

Fall Festivals

A number of state parks have taken advantage of the lovely autumn weather to have fall festivals. Haw River Fall Festival on November 11 drew an enthusiastic crowd for hiking along wetlands, games, exhibits, brunswick stew and s'mores.

State Park's Commitment to Sustainability

The state parks system has increased its commitment to sustainability by seeking certification for all large projects by the national Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program of the U.S. Green Building Council.

Features at the newly dedicated Gorges State Park visitor center that contribute to certification include both active and passive solar energy systems, geothermal energy systems, rainwater collection and water-saving fixtures and natural landscaping.

“Our Gorgeous Day at Gorges” Continued from page 2

What a great way to start the week! On Monday, November 5, the entire seventh grade from Brevard Middle School went to Gorges State Park for Survival Day. The weather was beautiful; absolutely perfect for the activities. The very next day it was 38 degrees and snowing at the park, so thank goodness we chose the day we did!

The students carried their lunch and snack in their backpacks throughout the day. Students were in six different groups and went through six different centers at three different locations within the park, dealing with shelter building, orienteering, animal tracks and sounds, and figuring out the ten essentials for being in the woods.

The Friends of State Parks provided money to cover the costs of bus transportation and snacks for all students. Gorges State Park provided each student with a bottle of water. All rangers and staff at Gorges led centers and/or helped keep things running smoothly all day. Friends of Gorges was also involved in the events of the day.

By all accounts, the trip was a huge success. The students especially enjoyed being outside, working in groups, getting to hike, and building shelters. When



Ranger James Ledgerwood did a hands-on activity about the ten essentials of surviving in the woods.



Ranger Kevin Bischof works with students on an orienteering course.

asked to do a plus/delta the next day, it was difficult to find a delta!

Brevard Middle School and Gorges State Park hope to make this day an annual event, as it ties in with the theme of two seventh-grade novels and addresses 21st-Century Skills and standards from social studies, science, language arts, and healthy living.



Students learned shelter building skills from Mr. Mike Galloway.

Friends of State Parks

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“I Love My State Parks”

Friends Conference

February 6, 2013

9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Nature Research Center - Raleigh

FRIENDS OF STATE PARKS - OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Official organization address: P.O. Box 37655, Raleigh, NC 27627

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Executive Committee

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Vice-president - Jim Richardson, Raleigh
Secretary - Morgan Richardson Lloyd, Raleigh
Treasurer - Lindsey Hobbs, Raleigh

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FSP Board Meetings 2013

January 26, 2013	11 a.m.	William B. Umstead SP
May 4, 2013	10 a.m.	Morrow Mountain SP
July 27, 2013	10 a.m.	Chimney Rock SP
November 2, 2013	11 a.m.	Lake Waccamaw SP