



Friends of State Parks

Supporting the State Parks of North Carolina Since 1973

Spring 2013

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

Message from the President

David Pearson

Hello Friends,

2013 has proven to be a challenging year for all North Carolina Parks, not just State Parks, but parks and recreation across the state.

Governor Pat McCrory released his budget in March, which included the diversion of dedicated funding from the Park and Recreation Trust Fund to the General Fund. This was part of a broader philosophical shift away from nearly all dedicated funding sources in the budget. The Governor's budget included just enough appropriations to PARTF to fund debt and committed grants and obligations.

In May, the long-awaited Senate tax plan was unveiled. The Senate plan, called the NC Tax Fairness Act, expects to:

- Lower the personal income tax rate over three years to 4.5%
- Lower the corporate income tax rate to 6%
- Lower the business franchise tax by 10%
- Lower the sales tax rate (to 6.5%) and broaden the base to include an additional 100 services, including professional services (approximately 30 are currently taxed)
- Repeal certain sales tax special rates and exemptions, including food, prescriptions and nonprofits (including hospitals)
- Repeal many industry specific tax credits
- Eliminate the estate tax
- Make no changes to the real estate transfer tax, but change how revenue from the tax is used (divert to General Fund)

North Carolina Parks are impacted by the Senate plan, as the proposal to divert revenue from the real estate transfer tax takes away the dedicated funding for PARTF and, instead, diverts revenues to the General Fund. Friends of State Parks is working with Senate leadership to secure alternative funding. It should be noted that the diversion of revenues to the General Fund is believed to be happening throughout the Senate budget (as was originally proposed in the Governor's budget) and is not targeted at Parks. We are, unfortunately, a side-effect

of a bigger philosophical tide against dedicated revenues.

With the House budget plan expected to include some of the same philosophical changes, future funding for Parks (both State Parks and local Parks) is uncertain.

As a reminder, this Legislative budget process is a public debate and you as concerned North Carolinians should voice your opinions to your local legislators.

We will keep you posted as more details become available.

Friends of State Parks Board Members from Across North Carolina Combine Business and Pleasure at Morrow Mountain State Park

by Tanya Davis, secretary,
Friends of Morrow Mtn.

Friends of North Carolina State Parks convened in Stanly County, at Morrow Mountain State Park on Saturday, May 4, 2013, to conduct the quarterly spring meeting. Park Superintendent, Greg Schneider, welcomed the group, provided a brief history of the park, and highlighted many amenities at Morrow Mountain. He also commended the board for their dedicated efforts to support and protect North Carolina's state parks. Friends of Morrow Mountain Chair, Vanessa Mullinix, stated that the Friends of Morrow Mountain chapter was recently established, and noted early success would not have been possible without assistance from this group. State Parks Board President, David Pearson, conveyed gratitude to park officials as well as Friends of Morrow Mountain State Park for extending such a warm welcome. With a full agenda for the meeting, President Pearson facilitated discussion of old and new business to include grant approvals, legislative updates, and planning for North Carolina State Parks Centennial Celebration to take place in 2016.

When the quarterly meeting adjourned, both "Friends" groups enjoyed a tour of the park led by Park Ranger, Ron Anundson. It is said timing is everything! The timing for the State Parks Board meeting at Morrow Mountain could not have been better as lavish blooms of

Mountain Laurel were abundant in every direction. Following the tour, everyone enjoyed a cook-out to include homemade ice cream and a special “stump cake” decorated and served by park staff, Toni Phillips. A productive and enjoyable day ended with many new friends and new ideas to promote and protect North Carolina’s valuable state parks.



*Photo by Bob Sowa
Park Staff Toni Phillips serves Jane Hunt, FSP board member, delicious “stump cake” Toni had decorated with an outdoor theme especially for Friends of State Parks!*

Board Meeting Highlights

by Jim Richardson

The Friends of State Parks board of directors met at Morrow Mountain State Park for their Spring meeting on Saturday May 5. The meeting had been moved from the traditional last Saturday in April to take advantage of the park’s splendid facilities including the historic pavilion and cabins for overnight accommodations. Before the meeting started, we were treated to breakfast refreshments by the new Friends of Morrow Mountain chapter. Chairperson Vanessa Mullinix welcomed us together with vice-chair John Young, secretary Tanya Davis and director Laura Krug.

Business topics of interest were the \$2,024 revenue for FSP generated by the Parks by Nature smart phone app; Carol Tingley’s review of the parks centennial plans for 2016 which will require FSP to manage the anticipated corporate funds; and a grant of \$1,450 was approved to send Martin Kane, the division’s exhibit expert, to the Duke Documentary Center in preparation for the centennial. Cyndy Weeks has coordinated a \$925 grant from the FSP Grants Committee to complete the funding required by the Friends of Dismal Swamp to mount a large black bear.

The next board meeting will be at Chimney Rock State Park at 10 a.m. on Saturday July 27.

Morrow Mountain State Park – a Unique History

by Jane Hunt

The 3rd oldest park in N. C., founded in the late 1930’s, is located just about in the exact middle of the state nestled on the western side of the Uwharrie National Forest. Going back in time one would say it was on the Salisbury to Fayetteville plank Road, and at the current park’s location you would have had to get on a reaction ferry to cross the Yadkin River. The toll for one vehicle and six horses would have been seventy five cents or for one foot passenger, five cents. A reaction ferry is one which is attached to a cable strung across the river, and like a sailboat, it would be powered by the current in the river pushing against a keel on the bottom of the raft.

The Uwharrie Mountains sprang from a chain of volcanoes which deposited massive amounts of lava and ash and were once on the coast... 500 million years ago. Artifacts found in the area date the earliest inhabitants



*Photo by Bob Sowa
Ranger Anundson guides FSP board members through Morrow Mountain State Park.*

to 10,000 years ago with Europeans not arriving until the late 1600’s. One of the major attractions for the early inhabitants was the type of stone found there. It is called rhyolite and is hard and smooth and can easily be chipped to make arrowheads. The chief activity for these Stone Age people would have been getting food for survival, and good arrowheads would have been essential. The chain of water on the eastern side of the park (Yadkin, Uwharrie, and Pee Dee River and Lake Tillery) would supply fish which would have been trapped in weirs and then scooped out into nets. Thanks to the craftsmanship of the workers of the WPA and the CCC the rhyolite stones now form many beautiful walks, walls, and foundations around the park.

On the wall of the beautiful old lodge is a list of special species which have been found in the park... Indigo

Morrow Mountain Continued on page 5

News from Friends Groups

Friends of Crowders Mountain State Park

by Dewey T. Matherly, president

The Friends group at Crowders has been staying busy and focused on a variety of activities during the first part of 2013. Trail workdays have been held on a Saturday for several months but have also been limited due to a shortage of park staff to manage the projects. On April 14, 2013, in conjunction with Gaston County Cyclist, our annual bike ride fundraiser was held. The riders had choices of routes with a number riding 60 miles to help support the park. While we do not have the final numbers, we greatly appreciate the efforts of all involved from the planners, to the volunteers and riders and the park staff who play a vital role in this effort.

We now have a new website, due to a glitch in our former site; our web address is friendsofcrowders.com. Please check us out: the more hits we receive the further up the list we move in the listings when people search for us. Once you take a look, please give us your feedback, or if you would like more information as to development, we will be happy to share information as to our designer, cost, etc.

The Friends of Crowders will have a trail work day followed by a board meeting and a planning session on June 1st. We will also honor a scout, David Marder, who has developed, placed and committed to maintaining our trail markers through his college years. We will also have a dedication to a long time park friend who recently passed away. A bench with marker and later a tree chosen by her husband will be set in place at the Boulders Access Center in honor of Bernice "Sue" Ball a friend of the park. The planning meeting will look at the next five years and set forth a direction to address projected needs.

Friends of Lake Waccamaw State Park

by Cathy Neilson, president

Friends of Lake Waccamaw State Park hosted a 22 mile bike ride/race on April 27, 2013. 25 riders participated. Trophies were given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place: David Rockwell, 1st place at 1 hour 2 minutes; Rossie Bullock, 2nd place at 1 hour 5 min; Larry Smith, 3rd at 1 hour 7 min. The oldest rider, James Council, aged 79 finished in 1 hour 35 min. All participants received an "Athletic Award" with their names. Our next bike ride will be in October, 2013.

Cathy also reports that FSP David Pearson and Jim Richardson offered valuable technical assistance to their Friends Group. One of their suggestions that she followed up on and enjoyed and recommends for other Friends groups leaders is attending your park's PAC meetings.

Haw River State Park Advisory Committee (PAC)

by Joan Lindley, chairperson

The HRSP PAC has provided funds to upgrade the ropes course, for plantings at the Summit Conference Center, and is planning an inaugural 5K "Blue Heron Run" in May 2014 to celebrate the opening of a new trail on "the farm" property. In addition, the PAC promotes and supports Friends Service Days, MTS Trail Workdays, Open House at the Summit, and works continually to promote awareness the vast beauty and rich resources of the Haw River State Park.

The Friends of Fort Macon Summer Schedule

May 31 Carteret Sunshine Band

June 14 Unknown Tongues

June 21 Samantha Casey and the Blue Grass Jam

July 12 Scarce and Ketner

July 19 Wild Honey

Aug 2 Morehead Brass

All show begin at 7PM.

Baskets allowed no alcohol in state park.

Bring chairs and blankets.

Donations gladly accepted.

YIP-EE Grants

A reminder to Friends Groups and Parks: you may still apply for an FSP YIP-EE mini-grant to partner with your schools to get students outside. Application forms and planning guidelines were distributed at the Friends Conference and can be accessed on line at the FSP website www.ncfsp.org.

The YIP-EE committee will meet on June 18 at 9:30 a.m. at Eno River State Park to discuss YIP-EE activities, funding needs and making grant requests to corporate sponsors for additional patches, activity books, and the Turtle Trails and Turkey Tails newsletter.

News from State Parks

Mountains-to-Sea Trail Presents a New Challenge

Trevor Thomas is endeavoring to become the first blind hiker to complete the MST. On May 11 he had completed the first third of the Trail enjoying clear skies after a difficult and wet beginning.

You can learn about Trevor and follow his adventures on his Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TrevorThomasZeroZero>. Tennille, a two-year-old black lab, is Trevor's companion on this trek. She came to Trevor about 8 months ago from Guide Dogs for the Blind. She learned to read trail markers pretty much on her own. Tennille herself is up for an award! You can vote for her as a Hero Dog at the American Humane Association link below and help Guide Dogs for the Blind in Charlotte win \$5,000: <http://www.herodogawards.org/contestants?nominee=87734379>

Hanging Rock State Park Celebrates TRACK Trail

A ribbon cutting and a guided walk through the woods was part of the May 11 celebration of the newly installed Hanging Rock State Park TRACK Trail, the seventh developed by Kids in Parks. Kids in Parks will be expanding upon their network of trails in the North Carolina State Parks system with the grand opening of The Hanging Rock State Park TRACK Trail, a flat, 0.6 mile trail featuring a cascading waterfall and a rock garden. Over the past few years, the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation's Kids in Parks program has been installing a network of kid friendly hiking trails, called TRACK Trails, on and in communities along the Blue Ridge Parkway. To date, the program has installed more than 20 trails in the regions surrounding the Parkway; and in partnership with several land management agencies, including: the National Park Service, US Forest Service, Army Corps of Engineers, city and county parks, Virginia State Parks and North Carolina State Parks.

Mount Jefferson State Natural Area

For the past six years, Mt. Jefferson State Natural Area has conducted a poetry contest at Ashe County elementary schools. This year's contest received over 350 poems written to celebrate Mt. Jefferson. Each of the submitted poems was read by a panel of judges who narrowed the poems down to the top 20 poets. At that point North Carolina Poet Laureate Catherine Smith Bowers completed the judging process by serving as the contest's finalist judge, reading and ranking the poems. All three elementary schools – Mountain View, Westwood and Blue Ridge - participated in the contest and each had students who received prizes and certificates. Each of the schools participated in awarding the certificates and prizes to their top poets. Poetry is taught in the classroom and is a required component of the English curriculum. The poetry contest is designed to correlate with North Carolina's educational curriculum standards. FSP congratulates Tom Randolph, Lead Interpretive and Education Ranger, Mt. Jefferson State Natural Area, for spearheading this program.

Festival for the Eno is the Place to Be!

The Festival for the Eno is coming up on Thursday July 4th and Saturday July 6th in Durham and will be FSP's largest event of the year. We will have a booth with information about us, state parks and books for sale, and we need volunteer staff for both days. The festival is open 10am - 6pm each day. Suggested shifts for FSP volunteers are 10-2 and 2-6 each day, but we welcome your help at any time. Volunteers get free passes. See the festival website for full details.

Please let Jim Richardson know if you can help. If this is your first time volunteering, don't be shy; we'll make sure new helpers are partnered with an experienced FSP member! Jim can be reached at jimr@ncfsp.org or 919-851-4725.

Young Artists Design Patch

Grandfather Mountain State Park has a new JURA patch design, thanks to a creative program that encouraged young artists from around the park. Art students at Avery County High School submitted roughly 100 pieces of artwork with the Carolina Northern Flying Squirrel as the theme.



*Photo by Sue McBean
Northern Flying Squirrel's unique qualities as replicated
by JURA patch contest winner Brandi Haney*

Youth in Parks - Environmental Education (YIP-EE)

Students Explore at Eno River State Park

By Liz Stabenow

Friends of State Parks partnered with Eno River State Park and the Eno River Association to bring every fifth grade student from Y. E. Smith Elementary School in downtown Durham out to the river on April 12. The trip was planned for the spring to help students get out and learn about science, nature, and the park in their hometown. Springtime weather played a role in the field trip- a storm rolled in the night before, with plenty of rain to swell the river and even some dramatic thunder and lightning. While many schools would have taken one look outside and called to cancel, the brave fifth grade teachers of Y. E. Smith boarded their buses and came out to the Eno! Luckily, it did stop raining long enough to get out and enjoy a hike along the river. The swollen waters were a great sight to see, and science topics like erosion and water supply were very real to these students. With water levels high, an alternative lesson on wildlife was quickly prepared by park staff and the education director from the Eno River Association. Live animals and taxidermy specimens were presented and an exciting discussion on animal adaptations and ecosystems followed. Students were again able to connect real life examples of predators, prey, herbivores & omnivores to their understanding of science. This hands-on lesson was enjoyed by the teachers and chaperones, who said they were glad they came out for a day in the state park. This year's program built upon the success of the 2012 YIP-EE program that brought students from Lakewood Elementary School to the Eno.



Photo by YE Smith Teacher
Fifth grade students from Y.E. Smith Elementary School tread softly across swinging bridge at Eno River State Park

Calling on the Nation's Youth to Breakdown Barriers to Getting Outside – Outdoor Nation Holds Summit for Raleigh/Durham

by Cyndy Weeks

Outdoor Nation is a national movement empowering young people ages 16-28 to breakdown the barriers to outdoor participation. The organization, funded by the nonprofit arm of Outdoor Manufacturing Association, has spearheaded 2-day conferences promoting their mission in several urban areas since its foundation in 2010. On June 29-30, they will hold their first "Signature Summit" in the Raleigh-Durham area. This Summit is a professionally facilitated weekend conference that allows young people from diverse backgrounds to connect with each other, identify top outdoor issues, brainstorm solutions and receive resources to bring their ideas to life. Each Summit is given \$10,000 in grant funding to carry the most promising solutions forward. Raleigh/Durham is one of three new cities targeted this year. Participation is free and there are funds to assist with transportation to the UNC Student Center where the conference will be held. Participation includes an overnight campout at Jordan Lake State Recreation Area. If you have individuals or a group (ages 16-28) who might be interested in participating, please contact Cyndy Weeks at cyndyw@ncfsp.org. For more information about Outdoor Nation visit their website at www.outdoornation.org.

Morrow Mountain Continued from page 2

Bush, Crested Coralroot Orchid, Carolina Birdfoot Trefoil, Grape Milk Vine, and Hog Plum. Also look for the Tawny Empire Butterfly, Bald Eagle and the Scarlet King Snake... which is very elusive, but non poisonous.

In the 1800s, Dr. Kron lived in the area, practiced medicine traveling long distances to care for those who needed him. He was also a horticulturist, gardener, preserver of the land, and father of two daughters who painted many pictures of the native flowers. His recon-

structed home site is in the park as well as his infirmary and greenhouse.

Or come to the park to Hike the Trails, (15 miles available), look for the old quarries, take your horse, (16 miles available), fish for bass, crappie, perch, bluegill and catfish, (you will need a license), Swim (Pool opened from June to Labor Day). boat, picnic, visit the nature museum and you can camp there (family, primitive, or group) or rent a cabin. As the new Park Superintendent Greg Schneider said, "We have it all."

Friends of State Parks

P.O. Box 37655, Raleigh, NC 27627

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Email: fsp@ncfsp.org



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Just fill out the form, clip and mail with your check to:

Friends of State Parks, PO Box 37655, Raleigh, NC 27627

_____ Student _____ \$10.00	_____ Donor _____ \$50.00
_____ Senior Citizen _____ \$10.00	_____ Organization _____ \$35.00
_____ Single _____ \$15.00	_____ Family _____ \$20.00
_____ Patron _____ \$100.00 (or more)	

Name _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

YIP-EE Committee Meeting

9:30 am June 18, Eno River State Park

Outdoor Nation Summit

June 29-30, 2013

Eno River Festival

July 4th and 6th

FRIENDS OF STATE PARKS - OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

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

Website: www.ncfsp.org

Executive Committee

President - David Pearson, Swansboro
Vice-president - Jim Richardson, Raleigh
Vice-president - Dorothy Graham, Durham
Secretary - Morgan Richardson Lloyd, Raleigh
Treasurer - Lindsey Hobbs, Raleigh

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At Large Board Members

Mary Fletcher - Bahama, NC
Jane Hunt, Raleigh, NC
Robert Jones, Charlotte, NC
Betty Martin, Raleigh, NC
Chandler Paethorpe, Gibsonville, NC
Sidney Shearin, Littleton, NC
Bob Sowa, Raleigh NC
Dr. Cyndy Weeks - Carrboro, NC
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FSP Meetings

Quarterly Board Meeting

July 27 10 a.m. Chimney Rock State Park

Annual Membership Meeting

November 2 11 a.m. Lake Waccamaw State Park

<http://www.facebook.com/NCFSP>