



Friends of State Parks

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

Supporting the State Parks of North Carolina Since 1973

Summer 2013

Message from the President

Hello Friends,

In 2009 I stated my goal of having a friends group at each State Park in North Carolina. Today 29 State Parks have a local friends group and several are in the process of forming. Many of you know the division of parks and recreation is divided into the north, east, south and west districts. We announced at the Friends Conference in February the East District is 100% with each state park having a local friends group. The North District and West District are not far behind and only need one or two new friends groups to be 100%.

With this growth there are challenges and opportunities. Our board is spread thin in trying to communicate with parks across the entire state and many times it is difficult for FSP Board members to attend events or represent local friends groups when called upon to help. We need volunteers to help manage at the district level, to communicate with local groups, and to represent Friends of State Parks when local needs arise.

Our Board of Directors recently approved new by-laws that will be presented to our membership at our annual meeting in November. Some of the changes include board positions for representation at the district level. This is an opportunity for passionate individuals to come forward, to get involved at a regional level.

We are looking for a few good stewards to step forward, volunteer to attend local friends groups meetings, be available when called upon, and to give a district report at the quarterly FSP meetings. If you have been involved in State Parks or with your local friends group and have a desire to help build a stronger statewide organization, please contact me at DavidP@NCFSP.org

My vision is to build a strong and powerful Friends organization that supports North Carolina State Parks into the future. Together we can make it happen!

Sincerely,

David Pearson

Get "On Board" with FSP

Even if you're not officially "on board", you are always welcome to attend FSP quarterly board meetings! Because board meetings are held in different regions of the state, getting there may seem like a challenge. Whatever effort is required, it is always more than worth it to be in state park surroundings and to enjoy the energy and hospitality of those who work and volunteer there. They always put out the welcome mat for FSP!

At the July 27 board meeting at Chimney Rock State Park, we were welcomed by Park Superintendent James Ledgerwood and Mary Jaeger-Gale, General Manager of Chimney Rock, who introduced us to Adam Tripp, president, and several members of Friends of Chimney Rock.

Lewis Ledford, Director of NC State Parks, gave an in-depth report on the legislative changes to the Park and Recreation Trust Fund. PARTF lost its dedicated funding from the deed stamp; additionally, the original PARTF board was terminated and will be replaced with a new nine member board. Three people each will be appointed by the Governor, Speaker and Senate Pro Tem.

(Get On Board Continued on page 2)

Wildlife Conservation Federation Honors David Pearson

North Carolina Wildlife Federation presented its 50th annual Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards at a gathering in Cary on September 7. The Wildlife Volunteer of the Year award was presented to David Pearson "a tireless advocate for wildlife and habitat funding." David has demonstrated his commitment to conservation in a number of ways, notably as a member of the state's Sea Turtle Advisory Committee, as a leader with Friends of Hammocks Beach State Park and as president of Friends of State Parks, a position he has held since 2009. By recognizing, publicizing, and honoring these conservation leaders—young and old, professional and volunteer—the North Carolina Wildlife Federation hopes to inspire all North Carolinians to take a more active role in protecting the natural resources of our state.

Our congratulations to David!

(Get On Board Continued from page 1)

Lewis Ledford praised the Friends of State Parks for their involvement in advocating for dedicated funding and the resulting \$11 million annual appropriation. His report also detailed the current status of the state park system and plans for the Centennial Celebration in 2016.

A main order of board business was approving by-laws revisions which will be voted on at the annual membership meeting November 2. The board also voted to expand funding for the YIP-EE program so that friends groups, parks, and schools can apply for a grant in successive years. After a tasty lunch, there was a choice of hiking in the park with Superintendent Ledgerwood or enjoying a guided boat tour on Lake Lure. Those opting for the boat excursion were first treated to a wildlife presentation by naturalist Emily and her assistant Zack.

Discovering the Lake James Discovery Trail

Board members gathered at Lake James State Park on Sunday, July 28, to explore with Ranger Jamie Cameron the popular Holly Discovery Trail in the Paddy's Creek area of the Park. Park staff and volunteers are to be commended for the creative design and construction of the interactive exhibits. A sign at the entrance recognizes Friends of Lake James as sponsors and major funders of the Trail.



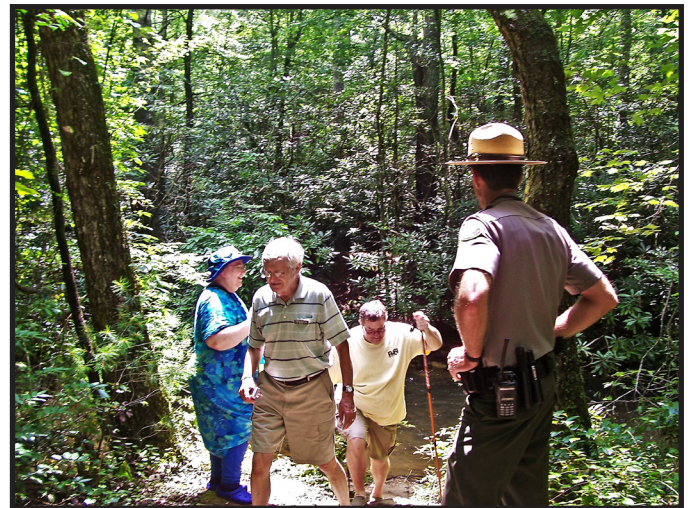
*Chimney Rock naturalist charms audience with wildlife.
photo by Dorothy Graham*



*Interactive Woodpecker Display
photo by Dorothy Graham*



*Groundhog captivates young Gus while his dad and David Pearson look on.
photo by Jim Richardson*



*Ranger Jamie and FSP members at Paddy's Creek
photo by Dorothy Graham*

More Park Adventures Await FSP Members

FSP members and prospective members (YOU) are encouraged to attend the fall board meeting on November 2nd at Lake Waccamaw State Park. If you've never been there, it's your opportunity to get acquainted with the park and help celebrate Friends of State Parks and its forty years of history. On the following day, those who want to canoe on the historic and scenic Lumber River will have the privilege of doing so, guided by Lumber River State Park rangers. Details for signing up will be available in October on the FSP website www.ncfsp.org.

There is much to celebrate about our "naturally wonderful" state parks and there are many ways Friends of State Parks can help sustain them. To do so, it is vitally important that you heed David Pearson's message by involving yourselves and helping lead the way to make the next forty years for FSP truly outstanding! Again, please join other FSP "stewards" on Nov. 2 at Lake Waccamaw State Park!

Legislative Report

by Elizabeth Biser

The 2013 "long" session of the NC General Assembly came to a close on July 26, 2013. It proved to be a challenging, yet promising session for State Parks.

Following the Governor's recommendation to eliminate the primary dedicated funding source for the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) and leave the fund only \$3.5 million in availability, Friends of State Parks worked with legislative leaders to craft a compromise, which would maintain an adequate amount of funding. The end result eliminates the dedicated funding source, but appropriates back \$11 million in FY (fiscal year) 2013-14 and \$13 million in FY 2014-15, while relieving the fund of debt obligation and some operating expenses. The end result leaves PARTF with \$12.4 million for FY 2013-14 and \$14.4 million in FY 2014-15.

Please note that the elimination in dedicated funding indicates a shift in budgetary philosophy, not a lack of support for parks. Other dedicated funding sources received similar treatment.

Other conservation trust funds were affected by the budget as well. The Natural Heritage Trust Fund was eliminated, with some of its functions transferred to the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF). CWMTF is slated to receive \$10,426,976 for FY 13-14 and \$13,657,530 for FY 14-15. Also of note, state funding for the Adopt-a-Trails Program was eliminated.

The "short" session of the General Assembly is set to convene on March 14, 2014. In the meantime, we'll be working to get legislators and other state leaders into State Parks to experience this treasure for themselves! Thanks to everyone for their advocacy this session.

Elizabeth Biser
ebiser@brookspierce.com

The Year of the Wildflower

Chimney Rock State Park in July brought to life the "Year of the Wildflower." Capturing their beauty brought joy and a special memory to board member Alice Zawadzki:

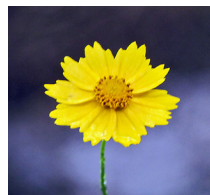
My Soul's Awakening

The awe happened at dusk in the Grand Canyon in the summer of 1977. I was 33 and sitting on an upside down five-gallon bucket gazing at a tightly closed four-inch bud of a white Sacred Datura. Naturalist Steve told us that the moment it got dark, the sweet scented flower would open and a hummingbird moth would come to visit. At the very moment it got dark, the bud began its unfurling. It seemed to struggle in its swaddling gown trying to free itself to dance. Then, in one breath, the bud uncurled as quick as an automatic umbrella and out of the cosmos, the moth came to kiss her.

That trip through time and the joy and magic of that moment awakened my spirit to the sacredness and mystery of the cosmos.

What a joy that this is N.C. State Parks Year of the Wildflower. May you too embrace and savor the Great Mystery through the gift of wildflowers!

(Alice Zawadzki is a past president of the North Carolina Native Plant Society www.ncwildflower.org.)



Coreopsis



Turk's cap lily
Lillium superbum
Photos by Bob Sowa



Trumpet vine
Campsis radicans

Board Expands Availability of YIP-EE Grants

Initially seen as one-time grant opportunities, the YIP-EE program will now offer multi-year grants to encourage getting students outside into state parks for environmental education and exploration. Application for a \$400 grant which is to pay for transportation to the park requires a Friends Group, the local Parks staff, and a local school to work in partnership. Planning guidelines and the application form are available on the FSP website www.ncfsp.org. Dorothy Graham, YIP-EE committee chair, can be contacted at dorothyg@ncfsp.org or by phone at 919-477-2601 if more information is needed.

Junior Ranger Participation Explodes

by Sean Higgins

The Junior Ranger program has officially exploded in the summer of 2013. In addition to many families leading their children in the program, at least six parks have had special Junior Ranger camps, including Fort Macon, Goose Creek, Pettigrew, Lake James, Falls Lake and William B Umstead. For a blog on the Pettigrew camps, go here and scroll down: <http://ncstateparks.wordpress.com>. We have had reports of several kids completing the program at 10 or more different parks!

Grandparents Keep Pace with Junior Rangers

A set of grandparents recently told rangers that they hoped to complete the program with their grand daughter at every state park before she is 12!



Christian and Cameron, Dismal Swamp's newest Junior Rangers, have a goal to earn a Junior Ranger badge at all North Carolina state parks with their grandparents. So far they have covered: Merchants Millpond, Goose Creek, Fort Macon, and Medoc Mountain.

Photo by Dismal Swamp staff



Photos by Dorothy Graham

Will, Cole, and Mac proudly display their Junior Ranger patches awarded by Eno River State Park Ranger Christopher Greiner after a busy day of activities including learning what a park ranger does and finding and identifying water bugs. Helping out were their enthusiastic parents and looking on was their "naturally wonderful" grandmother!



“Teaching children about the environment and giving them a hands-on opportunity to experience nature makes them smarter and healthier. Environmental education should be an important part of the curriculum in our schools. . . “ a quote from US Senator Jack Reed, a sponsor of the bipartisan No Child Left Inside Act of 2013. Bill numbers for the NCLI Act are S. 1306 in the Senate and H.R. 2702 in the House of Representatives.

To stay current on State Parks news, resources and activities, visit their website www.ncstateparks.gov and their blog ncstateparks.wordpress.com.

News from Friends Groups

Rumbling Bald: Hidden Gem of Chimney Rock State Park

by Adam Tripp, President

Friends of Chimney Rock State Park

Standing on top of the iconic Chimney Rock provides one of the most breathtaking views in the State. Looking across Lake Lure, you can see far into the Piedmont. And as your gaze moves to the east, a ridgeline of rugged cliffs and mature oak-hickory forest dominates the view across Hickory Nut Gorge. Known as Rumbling Bald, this recent addition to Chimney Rock State Park is popular with hikers and climbers alike and has been the main focus of the Friends of Chimney Rock State Park. Last December, FCRSP, in conjunction with various other user groups (Carolina Climbers Coalition, Brushy Mountain Trail Club, and The Carolina Mountain Club), sponsored a trail volunteer day to put the finishing touches on a new trail, re-routing visitors away from a heavily eroded old logging road. The trail day was a tremendous success! Our 46 volunteers were able to not only complete the planned trail work, but also built a stone staircase connecting the new trail to the boulders, the cliff line, and connecting trails.



Photo of Volunteers by Adam Tripp

Our next goal is to help the State Park reroute a second severely eroded logging road. If you have a chance to visit this unique ecological museum of gneiss boulders nestled amongst trillium, red bud, and mountain laurel, please consider volunteering or donating to our group for this next phase of work (donate via PayPal® on our Facebook® page or email us at chimneyrockfriends@gmail.com).

Campground Hosts Enjoy New Look

by Jay Young

Friends of Sauratown Mountain

Friends of Sauratown Mountain is excited to announce and debut polo shirts and caps for our campground hosts at Hanging Rock and Pilot Mountain State Parks. The idea for this came from Dave Cook, former Superintendent at HARO and now North District Superintendent. Dave was bothered that frequently he saw campground hosts wearing attire identifying parks from other parts of the country but couldn't provide them with anything identifying either Hanging Rock or North Carolina. NC Division of Parks and Recreation procedures simply didn't allow for an expenditure for this purpose. This was one of his top goals for our Friends group.

Last fall we completed our first grant application and a few months later we got the word, we were successful! We were awarded \$697 to provide each campground host in Hanging Rock State Park with identifying attire. The grant was made possible by the Bill Johnson Trust to Benefit Stokes County and administered by the Winston-Salem Foundation. Using local vendors; we were pleased to be able to provide these shirts and caps at a better than anticipated price.

One disadvantage for us with the grant is that the funds

are specific to Stokes County. As most of you are aware Hanging Rock State Park is in Stokes County while Pilot Mountain State Park is in Surry County. We took a look at our finances and came up with the funding to provide the same attire to campground hosts Pilot Mountain as well. The shirts and caps have been well received by hosts in both parks. Each host this year will receive a polo shirt in both sand and gray colors and one cap. Colors were chosen to closely complement the "green and gray" of the park staff uniforms. Each Superintendent chose a slightly different color cap from the available choices but both coordinate well with the polos.

We believe we are the first and only Friends group in North Carolina to provide this benefit for the campground hosts in our two State Parks. Dave hopes to use our success as a model for other parks statewide. We also have plans to expand this to provide others, such as visitor center volunteers and trail workers, with identifying shirts and caps. We also plan to have shirts and caps available later in the year for purchase by interested members.



photos courtesy of FSM

News from State Parks

A Challenge to Visit Every State Park

The Parks Division is challenging you to visit every state park in the next year. Are you up to it? If so, you could win some prizes from the makers of the free mobile app -- outdoor gear and gift cards from outdoor retailers. All the details are in the Park blog: <http://ncstateparks.wordpress.com/>

Jay Greenwood Named South District Superintendent

Congratulations are extended to Jay Greenwood, recently promoted to superintendent of the south district, a position formerly held by Angelia Allcox. Jay joined the state parks system in 1996 as a ranger at Goose Creek State Park. He served as superintendent of Merchants Millpond State Park since 2003.

“Jay obviously has broad experience as a ranger, park superintendent and natural resource manager and has been adept at engaging public support for Merchants Millpond and the state parks system,” noted Lewis Ledford, state parks director. “He is highly qualified for the range of challenges that a district superintendent encounters in a growing state parks system.”

Scott Hartley: Making Connections with Nature and People

Gratitude is expressed to Scott Hartley for his 30 years of service to State Parks, most recently, for the past 17 years, as superintendent of Weymouth Woods State Historic Preserve and Natural Area. Scott retired in June to move to South Carolina. He will be missed by the many people with whom he worked and whose lives he touched!

FMST Photo Contest

Friends of Mountains-to-Sea Trails (FMST) again welcomes entries into their annual photo contest. Submit your best MST photos to compete for cash prizes, gift cards for outdoor gear and the chance to have your photos published. The deadline for submitting photos in the 3rd annual contest is midnight on Thursday, October 31st. For contest rules, visit the website www.ncmst.org.

Morrow Mountain State Park in Recovery

Morrow Mountain State Park has reopened most of its facilities following cleanup from a devastating storm in June. Special thanks to area volunteers and businesses

that helped nearly 100 state parks employees in the effort. The park thanked the community for its help and patience with free swimming and boating. Read about it in the Division blog: <http://ncstateparks.wordpress.com/>

Moth Inventory at William B Umstead State Park

As part of a citizen science project, more than 100 people made a night visit to William B. Umstead State Park recently to collect and count moth species. Over two nights, 116 species were inventoried and added to the parks database.

Fort Macon Enjoyed Successful Concert Series

Fort Macon State Park's popular summer concert series wrapped up in August with more than 3,000 folks enjoying all types of music at sunset.

Crystal Coast Paddle Festival at Hammocks Beach State Park

The inaugural Crystal Coast Paddle Festival on Sept. 6-8 at Hammocks Beach State Park featured paddling of all types with kayaks, paddleboards and Onslow county's first Dragon Boat races in waters around Bear Island. The organizers saw it as unique for Eastern North Carolina and Hammocks Beach State Park was considered the ideal place.

North Carolina State Parks: a Multidimensional View

In *North Carolina State Parks*, Thomas Lehman and Michael Lee treat readers to a multidimensional view of the developed parks with more than 260 photos, and text that ranges over park features, botany, ecology, geology, history, and funding of park development. The authors frequently move from descriptions to explanations of the parks' natural phenomena. The book should inspire readers to get into the parks and appreciate them as the state's great natural treasure.

By studying and photographing all of North Carolina's state parks, author and new FSP member Thomas Lehman has gained a much deeper appreciation of our state's diversity and natural beauty than his initial "coast and mountains" impression.

Copies of the book can be purchased at the FSP website.

A Fresh Look at Chimney Rock State Park

by Jane Hunt

In the classroom at Chimney Rock is a large poster with the quote: “We ate Lunch at Chimney Rock. I ate a sawicH. The Mantens are buotleful” signed, Haley. Haley is right! As you travel west and see the irregularly-shaped blue/green mounds of the horizon piled one upon the other, it is breathtaking! The Cherokee aptly called this area “land of the blue mist”.

Chimney Rock State Park: the chimney fitting the description of an “antique and weather-beaten castle turret” is a 535 million-year-old limestone monolith, soaring 315 feet above the Rocky Broad River 25 miles SE of Asheville. In 1870, a private citizen, Jerome Freeman purchased the area for 25 dollars and opened it to the public in 1885. Transportation to it then was only on-foot, or by horseback, wagon or carriage. In 2007, the state of NC’s purchase of the land for 24 million dollars reflects a notable increase in value! Prior to state ownership, Dr. Lucian Morse, seeking a healthier climate to treat his TB, left Missouri and bought Chimney Rock in 1902. With his vision, dedication, and family support, he developed much of the park as it is in its present state. He believed in ‘protecting and sharing this natural wonder with the world”.

As you enter the park through a stone gateway, take the bridge across the river, drive up a curving three-mile road, and you will pass rocky walls covered with damp vegetation, and will see many small waterfalls under a shade-cover of trees. There is an entrance fee, which is not usual for NC state parks, but Chimney Rock has higher maintenance needs due to structures in place for half-a-century, and natural occurrences of rain, wind, and erosion challenges. James Ledgerwood, Park Superintendent, claims: “Mother Nature always wins!” Currently, the rangers are clearing a trail from a rock slide, another trail was closed due to a large tree down, and a third trail had an overhanging treacherous rock that needed removal. A new stairway was installed, and helicopters had to fly in with the girders and wood to complete it. Elevator repairs on the “1949 construction” were done to meet current safety standards. When built, this was the highest elevator in the state of NC.

Park your car, and walk out to a fine view of the Gorge, and look up to towering Chimney Rock. To ascend, you may choose the 26-story interior elevator or the 470 steps on the wide wooden stairs with double hand rails, and a ‘resting-landing’ every 12 feet of elevation. Dr. Morse declared that “Everyone should have the opportunity of standing atop Chimney Rock to enjoy its incredible view!” In the stone tunnel leading to the elevator, there

are photos of the construction and the necessary use of dynamite to blast away the rock.

Five hiking trails from Easy to Strenuous give a wide choice for activities. A family hiking trail has animal sculptures, one has a cave, another has interesting rock outcroppings, and one is best for bird watchers. It ends at the base of Hickory Nut Falls, the tallest waterfall east of the Mississippi. Hiking to the base of the Falls will give you a welcoming mist in the summer heat or a frosty wonderland treat in colder seasons. One other trail leads hikers above Chimney Rock for spectacular vistas.

At the website for the park, I found a description reading: “My family walked the trail to Hickory Nut Falls. The guide told us it was a moderate walk. Yeah. Be warned. For the regular hiker it is moderate. For the normal human being who doesn’t exercise every single day of their lives, this is a moderately strenuous hike, complete with rocks, tree roots, steep inclines, no guard rails, cliff edges and lastly about a hundred very steep stairs back to the bottom.”

The park offers a variety of programs throughout the year: camping under the stars, mushroom walks, daily nature programs, and music programs. There are reduced fees on Mothers’ and Fathers’ days. Easter sunrise services are a regular event. The Last of the Mohicans, filmed in the park, is shown here. Horseback riding, rock climbing, hiking, and camping are regular activities with planned expansion of possibilities. Check out the restrooms with “buotleful 3-D wall murals. This state park is “Must-Do” on your Bucket List!

Carvers Creek State Park Officially Opens

Carvers Creek State Park located in Cumberland County was officially opened to the public on September 9. Visitors to the historic Long Valley Farm access can enjoy a hiking trail that passes a variety of habitats including a longleaf pine forest, a mill pond, a picnic area and a fishing area. Carvers Creek which encompasses 4,332 acres in two principal parcels was authorized in 2005 as part of the division’s New Parks for a New Century initiative, It is the eighth state park opened since 2001 and the 36th park in the N. C. Division of Parks and Recreation. Jane Conolly is the park’s superintendent.

Carvers Creek was created in close partnership with The Nature Conservancy, which donated Long Valley Farm and aided in the acquisition of important tracts in the park’s nearby Sandhills area adjoining the U.S. Army military installation at Fort Bragg.

For additional information, visit the Division website www.ncparks.gov.

Friends of State Parks

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_____ 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: _____

Festivals

South Mountain SP Sept. 28
Stone Mountain SP Sept. 28

Heritage Day

William B. Umstead Oct. 5

FRIENDS OF STATE PARKS - OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Official organization address: P.O. Box 37655, Raleigh, NC 27627
Website: www.ncfsp.org

Executive Committee

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Vice-president - Dorothy Graham, Durham	dorothyg@ncfsp.org
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Alice Zawadzki, Raleigh, NC	alicez@ncfsp.org

FSP Annual Membership Meeting

November 2, 2013 11 a.m.
Lake Waccamaw State Park Visitors' Center

November 3, 2013 10 a.m.
Lumber River State Park
"Scenic Canoeing on the Lumbee"
(details available mid-October
www.ncfsp.org)

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