

North Carolina Friends of State Parks 2016 Annual Report



Message from the Executive Director

First came the miners. All they wanted were a few minerals and there were plenty.

Then came the lumberjacks. All they wanted were a few trees and there were plenty.

Then came the railroad men. All they wanted was a little space to travel up the mountain and there was plenty.

Then came the mill. Lumber was needed for construction and the mill made plenty.

And then came the lumber camps, housing, and loggers by the hundreds. Lots of men were needed for labor and the camps provided plenty.

The economy was booming. It was the land of opportunity.

And everyone thought there was plenty – except for a few, who were afraid that soon there would be none.

Trees were cut by the hundreds. Whole forests were destroyed.

And, the few became outraged and appealed to the governor who insisted that it stop, and he convinced the legislature to establish the first state park. And then there was one.

That was in 1915.



As we promote the Centennial of NC State Parks, let's remember the origins of our Park system and thank the people who have managed these "Naturally Wonderful" parks for the last 100 years so we can have plenty.

As we move forward, let's not forget to balance the recreational use of our parks with the conservation of our natural resources and remember the lessons learned over 100 years ago. If we commercialize our parks the economy will be booming, parks will be the land of opportunity, and everyone will think there is plenty.

Except for a few, who will be afraid that soon there will be none...

Over the last 100 years the "Few" organized into greater numbers and are today known as "Friends Groups". Friends who have promoted, advocated, and supported the growing state park system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David M. Pearson".

David M. Pearson, Executive Director
Friends of State Parks, Inc.

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Friends of State Parks, Inc.

Mission Statement

Friends of State Parks is a citizen’s group dedicated to the understanding, enjoyment, and protection of North Carolina’s State Parks. FSP was incorporated on December 15, 1978 and designated as a 501(c)3 federal tax exempt organization. Tax ID #58-1634155

FSP supports this mission of N.C. Division of State Parks and Recreation: to protect and manage the unique biological, geological, archaeological, recreational, and scenic resources of the state. Friends of State Parks promotes public awareness of the immense contributions of these natural areas to the quality of life for North Carolinians of present and future generations.

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Board of Directors

Board of Directors

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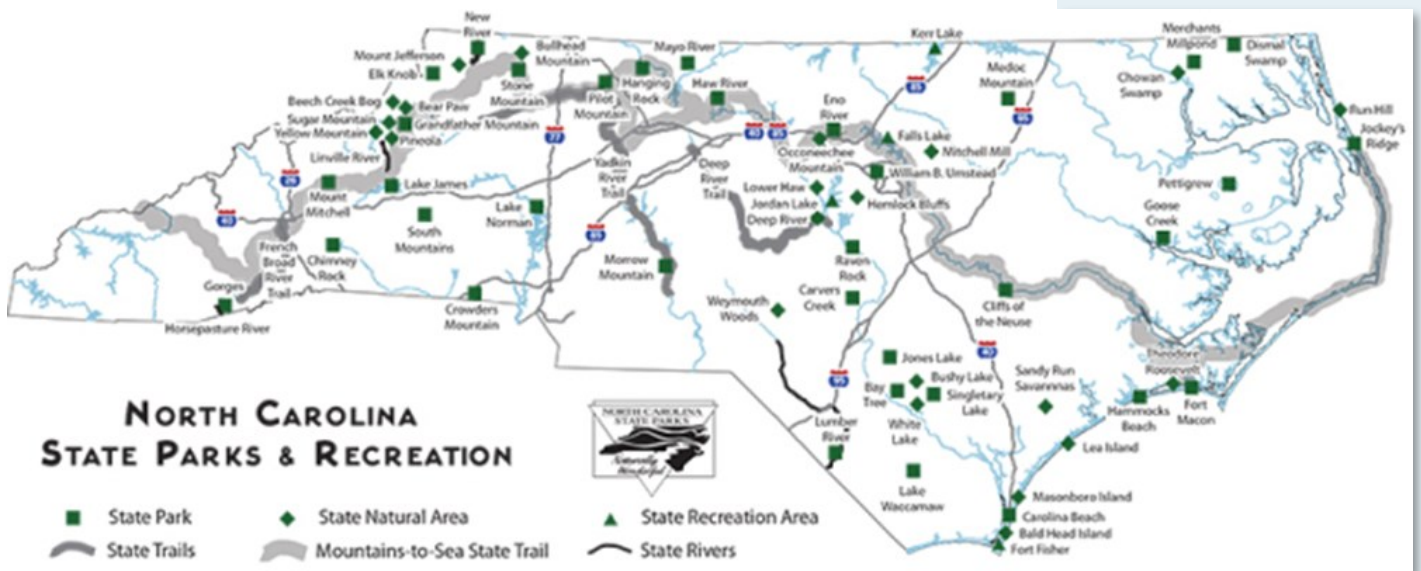
Newsletter Editor

Pam Pearson

Local Friends Groups

As a state-wide "umbrella" organization Friends of State Parks depends heavily on its network of local support groups to provide help to individual parks. We have been successfully expanding this network and now 32 of our 35 state parks have a local group to assist them with their programs. Local people are key to supporting park specific activities such as education programs, facilities improvements and festivals, as well as advocating for their park within the community. Local friends groups consist of well established affiliate organizations as well as the newer direct chapters of Friends of State Parks and all of them welcome new members. Contact information can be found on the FSP website.

The last 40 years



Occasionally, it's good to turn around and see just how far you've come.

The support group Friends of State Parks held its first meeting in 1973 and members recently digging into the organization's history recall there were 16 designated state parks and two state recreation areas ready for the group's support that year. Since then, the state parks system has grown to 35 state parks and four state recreation areas – along with 20 state natural areas, seven state lakes, four state rivers and four state trails. The system now manages more than 218,000 acres.

The state parks system has always been (and likely always will be) a work in progress as North Carolina grows and its conservation goals evolve. Actually, three state parks have been de-listed from the group of 40 years ago. Mount Jefferson was re-authorized as a state natural area (now under the administration of New River State Park). Masonboro Island became a state natural area now managed by the Division of Coastal Resources. And, Boone's Cave – always a bit undersized for a state park – was put under the protection of Davidson County. In 1973, the system was poised for a sudden growth spurt, thanks largely to

the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, which began channeling some money to the states for land protection. Another growth spurt began in the early 1990s as the N.C. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund was established.

The system and Friends of State Parks also harbored a "wish list" in the 1970s – areas of the state they thought might be good candidates for state park designation. Of that list of 12 high-quality land areas, eight eventually earned state park status – South Mountains, Crowder's Mountain, Haw River, Eno River, Medoc Mountain, Goose Creek, Merchants Millpond and Jockey's Ridge. (The Deep River is another candidate that has been brought into the park system and designated as a state trail.)

Even old-timers in the state parks might have trouble remembering all the parks on that list of 40 years ago. They were: Mount Mitchell, Fort Macon, Mount Jefferson, Stone Mountain, Pilot Mountain, Boone's Cave, Hanging Rock, Morrow Mountain, Raven Rock, William B. Umstead, Jones Lake, Singletary Lake, Cliffs of the Neuse, Masonboro Island, Hammocks Beach, Pettigrew.

40 YEARS

State Parks in the next 100 years

As the state parks system nears its centennial, a development plan for the next 100 years should include steps to expand and promote a parks system that is an economic and business recruitment asset, Gov. Pat McCrory said in a ceremony commemorating the birth of North Carolina's first state park.

The governor's remarks came moments before signing a proclamation recognizing the legislative authorization of Mount Mitchell State Park March 3, 1915 and declaring the first week of March as "North Carolina State Parks Week." The event at William B. Umstead State Park was a precursor to a yearlong centennial celebration planned for 2016. "As we celebrate the past, we need to develop a strategy for the future," McCrory told a group of parks supporters. "I'm preaching to the choir, and what we need to do is take this choir throughout North Carolina."

North Carolina conservation and business leaders joined the governor and Donald van der Vaart, secretary of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, for the celebration. Jean Spooner, chair of the Umstead Coalition, spoke about the natural and cultural significance of North Carolina's state parks. Alex Bernhardt, chairman of Lenoir-based Bernhardt Furniture, spoke about the value of state parks and how they provide a greater quality of life in North Carolina for businesses and their employees.

Bernhardt said the public-private partnership of conservation groups and the state parks system can continue to leverage assets to create more parks and that effort is critical. "The tremendous economic impact to North Carolina and its citizens is well worth the investment the state continues to make," he said.

"This is a great kickoff to our celebration of state parks in North Carolina," Van der Vaart said. "Beginning in 1916, North Carolina set a standard for the nation in protecting its natural resources. The state parks centennial in 2016 will be an opportunity for all North Carolinians to renew a shared commitment of stewardship of those resources."



North Carolina intends to celebrate the state parks system's centennial throughout 2016 with a series of special events at every state park and a public-private partnership campaign in concert with Friends of State Parks, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the system.

Reacting to perceived threats to an iconic natural resource, North Carolina's governor Locke Craig and its general assembly, in session March 3, 1915, took a bold first step to protect Mount Mitchell. Proclaiming, "Whereas, it is deemed desirable that this beautiful and elevated spot shall be acquired and permanently dedicated as a state park for the use of the people of the entire state seeking health and recreation..." the legislators launched an effort to purchase property on the mountain's summit. By the end of 1916, 795 acres had been acquired to create the first state park in the Southeast.

Documentary celebrates state parks for 2016 centennial

After nearly a year of intense videography – and decades spent visiting state parks – Tom Earnhardt unveiled a new, hour-long documentary celebrating the centennial celebration of North Carolina’s state parks system. *Saving The Best* which aired on



SECU’s King said, “This documentary is a wonderful way to preserve and share the historical, educational and economic value of our parks, reaching into the depth of the land and our natural resources to bring awareness to our great heritage. State Employees’ Credit Union is extremely proud to be a behind-the-scenes partner.”

Earnhardt teamed with videographers and co-producers Mark Crews and Tucker Hayes to visit each of the 41 state parks at least once, often bringing out a new drone to capture stunning aerial footage of the parks’ landscapes. A high point came in October when the Southern String Band performed for the crew on a rocky ledge at Pilot Mountain State Park to supply the soundtrack.

UNC-TV and will be shown several more times during 2016 as well as holding a place on UNC-TV’s website.

Visits to state parks have long been a staple of Earnhardt’s *Exploring North Carolina* segments on UNC-TV. That background and his commitment to a larger centennial project drew the interest of the State Employees’ Credit Union (SECU), which financed the effort.

“This film is a terrific story about North Carolina; it’s about who we are and where we came from. It’s also about the people who make our parks run, probably the most dedicated people as servants in our parks system, an extraordinary group of stewards,” Earnhardt said. “The goal of this program is to excite the people of North Carolina about the parks system and to educate them about the great efforts of those who work in the parks.”

Earnhardt said that excerpts from *Saving The Best* will be adapted for educational purposes in the parks and school systems. And, the documentary will have a long shelf life since centennial events will be held at every state park during the year.

Director of NC State Parks Michael Murphy said, “Tom Earnhardt has been a trusted friend of state parks for many years, and his partnership with the State Employees’ Credit Union has resulted in an outstanding study of the history, beauty and commitment to conservation on display in our state parks every day.”



PROMOTE

State Parks attendance at record level

Governor Pat McCrory announced that attendance at North Carolina's state parks set a new record in 2015.

More than 17.3 million people visited the state's 39 parks, up from 15.6 million the previous year, according to the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation.

"An 11 percent increase proves that nothing compares to the enriching experience of a visit to a North Carolina state park," Governor McCrory said. "North Carolina's natural beauty is an important part of our overall quality of life that is second to none. I



commend the men and women of our parks division for creating unique adventures that can turn a visit into a lifetime memory, and sharing our vision of preserving our state parks for future generations."

Among 39 state parks and state recreation areas, 30 reported increases in attendance in 2015. Jordan Lake State Recreation Area in Chatham County reported the highest attendance at 1.6 million visits and was among six state park units logging more than a million visitors. The others were Fort Macon, Jockey's Ridge and William B. Umstead state parks and Falls

Lake and Kerr Lake state recreation areas.

"The diverse beauty of North Carolina is found in our state parks," said Natural and Cultural Resources Secretary Susan Kluttz. "From the mountains to the coast, each park is unique in the wonderful opportunities it offers to our visitors to connect to nature."

In recent years, many state parks have added special events to their calendars to complement system-wide events such as First Day Hikes, National Trails Day and Take a Child Outside Week. Newer state parks such as Carvers Creek in Cumberland County and Gorges State Park in Transylvania County are being discovered by the public.

"Beginning with First Day Hikes a year ago, North Carolinians found every opportunity to enjoy our state parks in 2015, setting an attendance record for the third straight year. This reflects the value they place on our state parks and the opportunities for family recreation," said

Mike Murphy, state parks director. "There are even more reasons to visit in 2016 as we celebrate our 100-year history with special events statewide and in every state park."

A new visitor center and improvements in mountain bike trails at Lake Norman State Park likely contributed to a 35 percent increase in visitation there to 742,236. Other parks reporting significant increases in visitation included Gorges State Park (48 percent), Pilot Mountain State Park (35 percent), Grandfather Mountain State Park (30 percent) and Hanging Rock State Park (24 percent).

Legislation and Parks and Recreation Trust Fund

2015 was a notable year for parks at the legislature. Parks have significant support within leadership in both chambers, and this is evidenced by a significant funding increase for the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, and inclusion of both state and local parks in the \$2 billion bond package. This was also a big year for state parks, as their home has now moved from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to the newly re-named Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund

The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund will receive an additional \$190,924 in recurring funds in FY 2015-16 and an additional \$10,427,997 in FY 2016-17 (\$4,427,007 of which is recurring), bringing total funding for the Trust Fund to approximately \$37.2 million for the two year budget cycle.

Additionally, a budget provision requires half any remaining funds appropriated for salary increases, compensation bonuses, and employee benefits (for all of state government) to go to the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. This will likely result in approximately \$2.5 million of additional dollars going to the Trust Fund.

Centennial Funding

The budget includes \$450,000 over two years for the promotion of the State Parks Centennial.

Bond Package

If voters approve the general obligation bond package in March, State Parks will receive \$75 million (with a capital project at each park) and local parks will get \$3 million in matching grant funds for parks equipped for children and veterans with disabili-

ties.

State Parks Budget

No positions were eliminated and no further operating reductions were taken. The legislature included a provision that prevents the Department from charging parking or entrance fees at parks.

The budget does provide the division with the authority to implement “dynamic pricing,” meaning the division has the ability to use market pricing strategies (i.e. charging less in non-peak times for a campsite than in peak times, or charging more for lakefront campsite rentals than third-row rentals).

Umstead Park/NC Trail Expansion

A proposal to exchange land between Umstead State Park and the Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority, which had not been vetted through stakeholder groups, appeared in a bill that would have created a duplicative trust fund (the North Carolina Trails Management Trust Fund - recall that the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund already funds trails), whose funding stream would have been significant increases on state park fees. The proposal was troubling, especially because most of the land identified for transfer had reversion clauses - meaning that it would revert back to the federal government if it ceased to be part of the state park. The bill would have also taken a local park and made it part of Umstead, again, without consultation with either party. Friends of State Parks opposed this bill. It did not pass.

It has been a very successful year at the General Assembly for parks in our state. Please be sure to thank your legislators for their support!

State Parks and their visitors appreciate administrative professionals

In 2015, the people you'll often meet first at North Carolina's state parks – office assistants and processing assistants – underwent training to increase efficiency and provide an even better experience for millions of visitors.

These men and women have been expanding their professional knowledge during the slower winter months in preparation for the busier summer season. And now they are putting this new knowledge to good use.

ing sessions held by state parks reservation system trainers, instructors from the Office of State Personnel, and the parks system's own Administrative Professional Council. In addition, the administrative professionals from state parks near and far learn from colleagues while at the training, a less formal but no less effective training method.

So, rest assured that the owner of that friendly voice on your favorite park's phone line or that smiling face greeting you in the visitor center has been



Acting not only as receptionists, cashiers, and record keepers, the state parks system's administrative professionals also perform duties as reservation agents, accounting clerks, and hiring managers, keeping office functions running smoothly in each park. Such skills are gleaned through train-

gearing up behind the scenes for what will certainly be a busy summer of fun for North Carolina's outdoor enthusiasts. Be sure to ask them what they like best about helping to make your visit to our naturally wonderful North Carolina state parks an enjoyable one.

Neighborhood kids find lessons in the forest

In 2015, Friends of State Parks and the State Parks system launched a partnership with Neighborhood Ecology Corps (NEC), a non-profit, which equips urban middle school students to pay attention to the relationship between nature and community. Every Thursday after school, a group of 15 students gathered at Sanderford Road Community Center in Raleigh to learn about water, soil, air, and pollution and to consider how their neighborhoods compared to natural areas visited. On these visits, activities included examining aquatic macroinvertebrates at Eno River State Park, studying forestry at Raven Rock State Park, paddling at William B. Umstead State Park, fishing at Jordan Lake State Recreation Area, traveling to Hammock's Beach, and a three-day camping trip to the mountains.

On the first day, they rolled out on a bio-fuel bus to Grandfather Mountain and explored the wildlife habitats for eagles, black bears, cougars, and river otter, then they headed up the mountain to meet naturalist Mickey Shortt. Through a guided tour on the trail, Mickey expanded imaginations to view Grandfather not just as a mountain but also as an "island habitat in the sky." The hike continued on the mile-high swinging bridge where many conquered fears and crossed the bridge despite the strong wind thrashing their faces and the uncomfortable squeaking of metal in their ears.

Later, they set up camp at Julian Price Park. For almost all of the kids, this was their first time camping, and no one complained about pitching tents on wet and muddy ground. After a warm meal of tortellini donated by Friends of State Parks, they went on a night hike with Joy, a professor from Appalachian State University. At dusk they spotted deer prancing in the distance and about as soon as they left sight, the light from the sky went out and so did their flashlights. In the dark with only Joy and the moon guiding them, no one seemed to mind the mud grasping their ankles, the humming of the bugs, or the darkened woods. They saw Venus in the sky, crayfish in the water, and on our silent hike back to camp, a magical firefly show.

Planning to wake at 7 a.m., and forgetting

they were just guests in a forest; a host of birds had an earlier time in mind. So with not much choice, at 6 a.m. they crawled out of their tents and met with Supt. Sue McBean of Grandfather Mountain State Park for a trail maintenance project. With tools in hand, they dug troughs, hammered rocks (a total hit with the middle school boys), and laid gravel and logs to manage trail erosion.

The group then headed to Linville Gorge, the "Grand Canyon of the Southeast" and later to Black Mountain Campground. After welcome showers and a good meal, the night ended around the campfire where they made s'mores, listened to everyone's favorite and least favorite moments, told stories, and sang songs. They slept well that night and awoke the next morning to the smell of pancakes and bacon. Breakfast was good, but what awaited them was even better. They piled into the bus and headed for the highest point east of the Mississippi at Mount Mitchell State Park.

The kids were surprised to find themselves in the midst of a cloud with temperatures in the 50s. In the warmth of an education building, Ranger Billy Drakeford, taught the ecological similarities between Canada and Mount Mitchell, the environmental stresses on the park and tips on dealing with bears. As they hiked higher onto the observation deck, they got the sense that this was more than just reaching 6,684 feet. For the students, this was the accumulation of every field trip they had taken and everything they had learned. Standing there on the observation deck were more than just middle school students. These were young men and women who had been shaped by these experiences to become environmental stewards in their very own neighborhoods.



SUPPORT

Carver's Creek and the Long Valley Farm



Park Volunteers have been very helpful in many projects and programs over the last two years. To date there has been more than 250 volunteers putting in over 1,120 hours of work!

Volunteers have worked on trails, removed old barbed wire fence, controlled harmful non-native plants, built a privacy fence, cleaned-up hundreds of pounds of litter and trash, and many other projects. Ranger Bowers, with the help of several volunteers and some Boy Scouts, planted a Pollinator's Garden next to the park office. The Wood Duck boxes on the Millpond, the Blue bird houses throughout the park, and the flag pole area were all Eagle Scout projects completed in the past two years.

Park Staff and Volunteers have also completed a number of significant construction projects. The Observation Deck was installed in 2014 and is a great place to sit and watch the beauty of the Millpond surrounding you or to go fishing. A new roof was installed on the Pavilion to help preserve this historic building for future use. A nice, large historical marker was placed in front of the Rockefeller house. A turning lane was completed on East Manchester Road at the park entrance to help keep us all safer when entering or exiting the park.

One of our most important mandates is to provide environmental educational opportunities that promote stewardship of the park's natural resources. Since opening the park has presented 270 programs attended by 5,577 people! In 2014 the park was recognized for programming efforts by winning an internal division award for the best programming of all the 41 state parks!

Speaking of stewardship of natural resources Carver's Creek has had many successes! Staff has conducted seven prescribed burns of a total of 786 acres. Harmful, non-native plants have been

inventoried and many control efforts put into practice. Park boundary's have been cleared and many miles have been marked. Staff has cleared and/or maintained miles of fire line. Rare and



significant plants were protected during a major water line easement project through the park. Nine biologist or other researchers have conducted studies within the park documenting plants, frogs, birds, and other wildlife. A very large wetlands and stream restoration project was successfully completed just a few months ago after five years of work.

The park will remain in an Interim (temporary) Development phase and will likely remain so for years to come. However, there are many hopes and dreams for this park, which you can get a glimpse of from our Master Plan by going to www.ncparks.gov.

Morrow Mountain State Park wall restoration project

At meetings of Friends of Morrow Mt. State Park in late 2013 and early 2014 a number of members suggested that an ideal project for the relatively new group to tackle would be to restore the two front entrance walls. The Civilian Conservation Corps had built those walls with dry staked argillite stone in 1940. The stone used at the front walls, like most all of the stone used throughout the park, was cut from argillite quarries from inside the park. The original dry stacked walls had been re-worked a couple of times since 1940 and some of those efforts were not up to the quality of the original CCC work. One story has it that as the walls deteriorated someone attempted to drive over some weaker sections with a four wheel drive vehicle. FMMSSP members wanted the walls to be restored as closely as possible to the original look of dry stacked stones but also to use some newer techniques that would ensure that the walls lasted for many years.

In early June of 2014 the north side wall (on your left as you enter the park) the restoration project began. Volunteer labor provided by members of FMMSSP, some in the community and some volunteers from the Robin Sage, Army Special Forces Qualification Program, helped take down the old argillite stones and set them to the side for the stone masons to use later. Significant in-kind labor was donated to dig the footing for the wall and to spread the concrete. Dean's Ready Mixed, Inc. and Pate Masonry Supply, LLC provided the concrete, sand, mortar, block, etc. at a discount for the project. Then Rocky Parker of Rocky Parker Masonry, who also discounted his charges, began a month long project to rebuild the north wall.

In mid-August volunteers again did a lot of landscaping around the wall, and the extra argillite stones were moved and stored for use on future projects. Then in late August, under the guidance of FMMSSP Director, Walter Deppe all the volunteers listed above helped split, and build the cedar rail fence along the north side entrance to replace the dilapidated, old cedar rail fence.

This north side wall project cost \$9,548.00 but when we give value to the many volunteer hours of hard work, in-kind contributions and discounts given we estimate the value of the north side project to be over \$14,000.00. The payments of \$9,548.00 were made possible with the largest gift, a grant from Friends of

State Parks of \$3,000.00 and then major gifts from Fiberon Decking in New London and Bank of North Carolina as well as hundreds of smaller gifts from members and the community.

The entire process almost repeated itself starting in late June of 2015. Once again volunteers from FMMSSP and the community gathered to take down the stones on the much longer south side wall and set them to the side for Rocky Parker, the stone mason.

Steve Austin Landscaping contributed his labor and equipment to dig out and remove several large stumps, dig the footing and handle the concrete. Again at a discount Dean's Ready Mix and Pate Masonry Supply provided the concrete, block, mortar, sand, etc. Then during July and August Rocky Parker of Rocky Parker Masonry at a discount rebuilt the south wall. In early September some initial clean-up around the wall has taken place. The extra argillite stones are once again being removed and stored for future use. Some significant landscape work is still needed as well as the installation of a cedar rail fence at the back of the wall so we probably have at least another \$1,000.00 in plants, mulch and value assigned volunteer labor for later in September or October.

The south side wall project cost \$16,824.00 and when we give value to the many volunteer hours, in-kind contributions and discounts given we estimate the value of the south side project to be around \$23,000.00. The payments of \$16,824.00 were made possible again from our largest gift, a grant of initially \$3,000, then another \$2,000, for a total of \$5,000.00 from Friends of State Parks. The next largest gift was given by Culp Lumber followed by a gift from Bank of Stanly as well as hundreds of smaller gifts from members and the community.

Our estimate is that Friends of Morrow Mountain State Park has with direct money, volunteer labor, in-kind contributions and discounts from contractors created a fully restored front entrance on both the north and south sides that has a value of over \$37,000.00. All during the project on both walls it was FMMSSP Board Chairman, Vanessa Mullinix, her efforts were extraordinary. Friends of State Parks grants totaling \$8,000.00 that made this wall restoration project a reality.

SUPPORT



Pilot Mountain tries new method to improve forest

Sassafras Ridge at Pilot Mountain State Park had become so overgrown that only a single sun-loving sassafras tree could be found recently in the immediate vicinity, which features a TRACKS trail for kids' exploration and education.

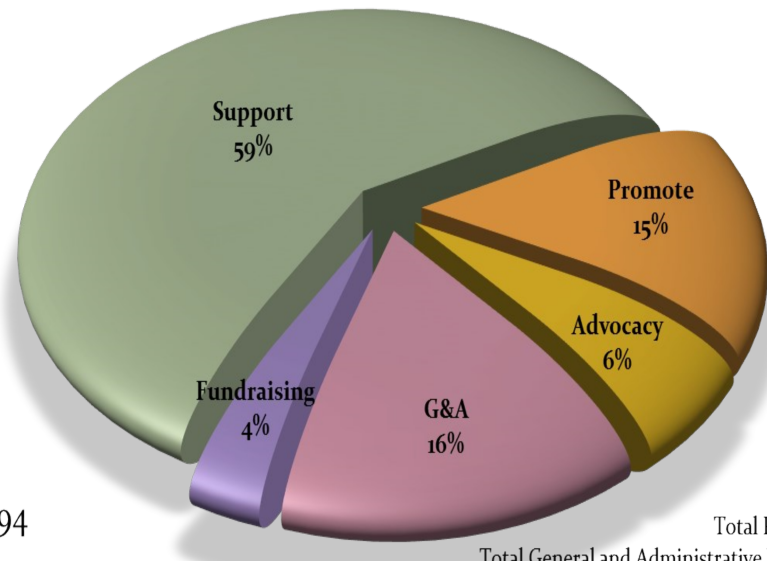
Wild berry plants appear on the forest floor after mulch treatment. Decades of fire suppression on the mountain is largely to blame, having created an understory of flammable thicket and leaf litter susceptible to wildfires. The park set a goal of reducing this wild-fire fuel to preserve canopy trees, remove smaller diameter trees and create conditions to favor native grasses, wildflowers and young pines and oaks. In the past few years, prescribed burns have been introduced in the park, but natural resource managers found another tool for their forestry toolbox.



With the help of Friends of State Parks and Friends of Sauratown Mountains, the park purchased a forestry mulcher – a rubber-tracked machine on a mini excavator that turns the small-diameter, mid-story plants into mulch in winter months. This leaves canopy trees intact but allows sunshine to reach the forest floor. After a single growing season, low-growing black huckleberry and blueberry plants appeared – an important food source for wildlife.

Before mulching, the ridge had a tangle of underbrush and leaf litter. Alongside the natural benefit to the forest, the program becomes a teaching tool on the Sassafras TRACK Trail.

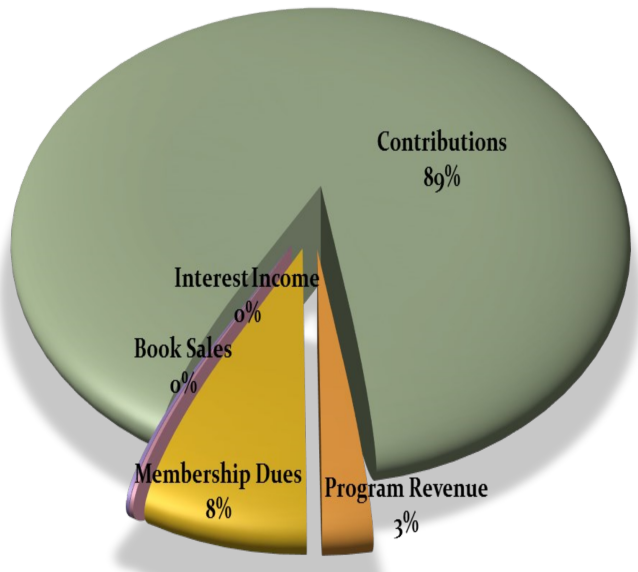
2015 Expenditures



Total
\$148,694

Total Program 80%
Total General and Administrative Expenses 16%
Fundraising 4%

2015 Support and Revenues



Total
\$201,939.

Net Assests, Begining of period \$218,193.
Net Assests, End of period \$271,438.
Change in Assests \$53,245.



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Become a member of North Carolina Friends of State Parks!

With your support, our educators, advocates, conservationists, and Rangers will continue their work to ensure a healthy and prosperous State Park System. Your annual membership helps to

- Support the mission of NC State Parks
- Protect unique biological, geological, archaeological, recreational, and scenic resources of our state.
- Promote public awareness of the immense contributions of these natural areas to the quality of life for North Carolinians of present and future generations.
- Provide outdoor recreational & educational opportunities to North Carolina's youth

To say thank you, you will receive these great benefits:

- Add your voice to supporting our State Parks when FSP presents your views to the Department and Legislature
- Opportunities to interact with other supporters of North Carolina's natural resources
- Receive information about each Park and the total Park System
- A Quarterly Newsletter which gives news from the 40 Parks, FSP activities, major park events,
- Legislative action, and issues in the parks
- Reduced rates on FSP sponsored publications
- Annual Report
- Hands on volunteer opportunities

You can join today at www.NCFSP.org

Remember your membership is current for one calendar year. You can always renew online or by mail.

Questions? Call or email us: (919) 827-1088
or Friends@NCFSP.org

