



# Friends of State Parks

Supporting the State Parks of North Carolina Since 1973

Winter 2013

PO Box 37655  
Raleigh NC 27627  
Web: [www.ncfsp.org](http://www.ncfsp.org)

## Message from the President

*David Pearson*

Hello Friends,

First I would like to thank everyone for supporting NC state parks. North Carolina State Parks has just completed another year of record attendance.

Friends of State Parks recently held our second state-wide conference which included a reception where we had key leadership from the House and Senate in attendance. The Speaker of the House, Rep. Thom Tillis, and the Senate Majority Leader, Senator Harry Brown both gave speeches about their love for North Carolina's State Parks and conservation.

To further our goal of educating our members and affiliated Friends Groups about legislation that is important to State Parks and conservation, FSP has employed

a lobbyist, Elizabeth Biser, who works with the firm of Brooks and Pierce in Raleigh. To accomplish this goal Elizabeth will be sending out weekly updates to local Friends Groups and FSP board members. If you do not have the opportunity to see these updates, please feel free to contact me by email and I will send them to you. If you have any questions or concerns about any legislation listed in the updates, please contact your local legislators and share your concerns and opinions. Of course you are always welcome to contact me or any other "Friend" of State Parks but the most effective way to share your concerns is to discuss them with your local legislators.

Thanks,

David Pearson

## January Board Meeting Highlights

The Friends of State Parks Board of Directors met Sunday, January 27th at Umstead State Park. The meeting scheduled for Saturday was delayed by a day because of icy traveling conditions. David Pearson introduced Dave Cook, newly appointed North District Superintendent, who welcomed the board to the park and shared information on park activities and challenges. Cyndy Weeks and Mary Fletcher, newly-elected board members, were recognized; they spoke of their life long love for being outside and their interest in supporting state parks.

Pam Pearson, chair of the Friends Conference committee, highlighted plans for the February 6th conference at the Nature Research Center in Raleigh. (See related story).

Jim Richardson reported on state parks festivals he had attended since the last board meeting and gave a membership report.

Dorothy Graham reported on the YIP-EE program: the YIP-EE grant application and guidelines will be included in the conference packets. Two grants have been awarded to support partnering of friends groups with their state park and a local school to help get school kids into a state park-- one in April in Durham at Eno River State Park and one in November in Brevard at Gorges

State Park. Funds to pay for transportation and healthy snacks are still available and Friends Groups are encouraged to apply.

The next board meeting will be at Morrow Mountain State Park at 10 a.m. on May 4, 2013.



*FSP president David Pearson welcomes new board members Cyndy Weeks (left) and Mary Fletcher (right) at January 27th board meeting at Umstead State Park*

*Photo by Dorothy Graham*

## 2013 Friends Conference — a Huge Success!

by Pam Pearson

Love was in the air early the week before Valentine's Day -- love for North Carolina's state parks that is. The Nature Research Center at the Museum of Natural Sciences was the place to be on Wednesday, February 6, 2013, as David Pearson, President of Friends of State Parks, welcomed about 100 friends to the William G. Ross Conference Center for the 2013 Friends Conference. There was a busy schedule planned for the one day conference sponsored by Friends of State Parks, Friends of the Hammocks and Bear Island, Inc., Great Outdoor Provision Company, and Parks by Nature. The morning session included presentations by FSP Vice President Jim Richardson, North Carolina State Parks Director Lewis Ledford, and a five-member panel discussion.

Jim Richardson shared there are 23 friends groups representing a total of 28 parks and announced that the east district was the first of the four districts in the parks system to have a friends group in each park. Growth of new friends groups averaged about five per year since 2010. The history of the parks system shown by Lewis Ledford detailed a timeline of where parks have been since Mount Mitchell became the first state park in 1916 through the present and invited input from the friends in planning an exciting centennial celebration marking 100 years of North Carolina state parks in 2016. Members from new and veteran friends groups led an informative discussion on fund-raising and attracting volunteers. The five-member panel consisted of Tom Kelly, Friends of Fort Macon, Cynthia Satterfield, Eno River Association, Kate Dixon, Friends of Mountains-to-Sea Trail, Jay Young, Friends of the Sauratown Mountains, and David Funderburk, Friends of High Country State Parks.

During lunch, Brad Ives, Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources with the North Carolina Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources, spoke on his commitment and the importance of the North Carolina State Parks system. The afternoon schedule included sessions on Strategic Planning, Collaboration, NC State Parks Interpretation and Education Philosophy, and a Legislative Update. In addition, Dr. Jonathan Howes and Dr. Tom Linden with the University of North Carolina gave a special presentation.

Nancy Walters who recently retired from the US Forest Service offered guidelines for strategic planning for friends groups, while Carol Tingley Deputy Director with North Carolina State Parks, offered overviews of



Using volunteers from the audience, Sean Higgins, Lead I & E Specialist, explains to conference participants the Interpretation and Education philosophy of N. C. State Parks

Photo by Charlie Peek



Conference attendees begin their day with registration, coffee and eye-catching exhibits in the Nature Research Center

Photo by Charlie Peek

how friends groups, park advisory committees or PAC's, and park staff work together on events and projects. Sean Higgins, Lead I & E Specialist, spelled out three guiding principles that make up the interpretation and education philosophies for North Carolina State Parks: every interaction with a park visitor equals an interpretive opportunity; focus on the resources; and reveal the value of public lands. Elizabeth Biser, FSP's lobbyist, updated the group on what legislation may affect state parks and the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund or PARTF. Dr. Howes and Dr. Linden showed three videos which appeared on the PBS television show *North Carolina Now* and featured Gorges, Eno River, and Fort Macon State Parks. The six-minute segments highlighted environmental issues at these parks and were written and produced by UNC graduate students from Dr. Tom Linden's course. Patrick Mustain, one of the students who produced the Gorges

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## News from Friends Groups

### Friends of Mountains-to-Sea Trail

Friends of Mountains-to Sea Trail had a record turnout for their annual meeting on February 2nd at the Saxapahaw Ballroom, celebrating the 35th anniversary of the trail. Special recognition was given to Allen de Hart for his vision in seeing the establishment of the trail.

The keynote speaker was Diane Van Deren, a North Face athlete who made an heroic run of the MST in 2012 covering the distance from Clingsman's Dome to Jockey's Ridge State Park in record time and in challenging weather conditions. Jeff Brewer, first president of Friends of the MST, was recognized.

Congratulations to MST executive director Kate Dixon for an outstanding annual meeting and to the many MST volunteers for an outstanding year!

### Friends of Chimney Rock State Park

Friends of Chimney Rock report that their December 1st Trail Day on the Rumbling Ball portion of the park was a huge success. There were 46 people to help out enabling them to finish even earlier than expected

### Friends of Raven Rock State Park

Recently sworn-in Junior Rangers are proud wearers of Junior Ranger patches. The event took place at the Nov 3rd Friends of Raven Rock State Park's Fall Festival. FSP board member Jim Richardson was there to help out and lend support. The event was a great success!

#### *Friends Conference Continued from page 2*

State Park segment, was on hand to answer questions. Dr. Howes asked for ideas to highlight other state parks for future video segments.

The meeting ended with an evening reception where friends as well as Brad Ives and Mary Penny Thompson, Assistant Secretary for Administration from NC DENR, were joined by Representative Thom Tillis, Speaker of the House, and Senator Harry Brown, the Senate Majority Leader, along with other notable North Carolina legislators to share some refreshments and talk about the importance of and how much we love our state parks! Many thanks to our sponsors whose generous support helped make the 2013 Friends Conference a stellar event.

Representatives of Friends groups share tips on recruiting volunteers and fund-raising at the Friends of State Parks Conference on February 6, 2013



*Left to right: David Pearson, Hammocks Beach State Park and panel moderator; Jay Young, Friends of the Sauratown Mountains, Kate Dixon, Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail; Cynthia Satterfield, Eno River Association, David Funderburk, Friends of High Country State Parks, and Tom Kelly, Friends of Fort Macon.*

*Photo by Charlie Peek*

### American Canopy: Trees, Forests, and the Making of a Nation

*by Eric Rutkow, Scribner, 2012.*

*Reviewed by Carol Wills*

As I sat down to write this review, I looked out into the woods behind my house. Oak trees, pine trees, sweet gum trees—they're like old friends. I looked on up the ridge to the fringe of winter-bare trees that mark out the slope of the land, and it was like looking through an album of family pictures. I grew up next to woodland and played there often. That was when my love of trees began.

When I heard Eric Rutkow being interviewed about his new book, *American Canopy*, on NPR, I couldn't wait to get my hands on a copy. And reading it, I have been continually impressed by the stunning impact of trees on the making of our culture and our nation. As Rutkow says, "Each year, the average American consumes roughly 250 board feet of timber, 200 square feet of plywood and other structural panel products, and 700 pounds of paper and paperboard. More than 2.5 million Americans hold jobs directly dependent on the country's woodlands. Nearly 20 percent of the nation's freshwater originates in the national forests. And these same national forests provide more than seven billion activity days for vacationers, hunters, fishermen, and hikers. But these are just the most obvious dependencies. Trees also provide raw materials for countless medicines, plastics, technological devices and artificial food."

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# News from State Parks

## State Parks Enjoy Record Level Attendance

Visitation at North Carolina's state parks and state recreation areas continued at a record level in 2012, with 14.2 million visits, matching attendance levels set in 2009 and 2011. Among 41 state parks and state recreation areas, 18 reported increases in attendance in 2012. Fort Macon State Park in Carteret County reported the highest attendance at 1.24 million visits. "Continued record attendance demonstrates that our state parks and state recreation areas fulfill a desire of North Carolinians and their visitors for affordable family recreation and a meaningful outdoor experience," said Lewis Ledford, state parks director. "A direct result of this high visitation is the strong contributions that state parks make to North Carolina's tourism economy as well as the economies of local communities."

## Hanging Rock State Park

Hanging Rock State Park in Stokes County was selected as the North Carolina 2012 Park of the Year by the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation. The park was chosen for its "exemplary contribution to the North Carolina state parks mission of stewardship, public service and education." Specifically, it was recognized for initiatives in environmental education, volunteerism and sustainability. The park was presented a coveted hiking staff when the award was announced at a recent park superintendent's conference. A medallion will be added to the staff – which is passed to the superlative park each year – and it will be displayed in Hanging Rock's visitor center. Hanging Rock was developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s and is among North Carolina's oldest state parks.

The State Parks website and blog are the primary sources used in preparing this page of the FSP newsletter. Our thanks to Charlie Peek, Information and Communications Specialist, for content and photographs. To stay current on parks news, resources and activities, please visit the Division website [www.ncparks.gov](http://www.ncparks.gov) where you can also sign up for the Division's blog ([ncstateparks.wordpress.com](http://ncstateparks.wordpress.com)).

## Lake James State Park

Lake James State Park invites anglers and pedestrians in general to enjoy the park's new 60-foot-long handi-capped-accessible fishing pier in the new Paddy's Creek Area. The state parks system teamed up with the N.C. Wildlife Commission to provide this new much-needed recreation opportunity which is located on the Burke County side of Lake James, a 6,812 acre lake. "This is an excellent example of two state agencies working together to provide a new recreation opportunity for people in North Carolina during a challenging time of funding shortfalls," said Park Superintendent Sean McElhone. "The wildlife agency came to us with the materials and manpower to put in this handicapped accessible fishing pier. To us, it was a no-brainer."

## Employment for Seasonal Positions

Seasonal jobs are available at a variety of state parks and recreation areas from the mountains to the sea. From assistant park rangers to lifeguards, naturalists to general utility workers, a variety of opportunities are available. Applications received prior to March 1 of each year will receive full consideration for that seasonal calendar year. Applications after that date will be considered only as positions become vacant, but applicants are encouraged to apply at any time. Applicants selected for employment will be notified as soon as possible, around March 31 of each year, or earlier for six-month positions for that seasonal calendar year.

*"American Canopy" Continued from page 3*

Rutkow goes on to explain why some people think our trees hold the key to our country's future. "Our il-limitable forests, which extract carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store much of it as wood and other plant matter, may provide an opportunity to combat global warming."

The checkered history of this country's use of wood stretches the imagination. Although measures have been taken to preserve our forests for future generations, we cannot ever relax our vigilance over their protection. I never doubted that, but after reading *American Canopy*, I became even more convinced that our very future depends upon our careful use and stewardship of our trees.

## Remembering the “Early Days” as FSP Observes its 40th Year

*by Lib Conner and Alec Whittaker*

As we approach the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Friends of State Parks, we can perhaps pause to look back at those who founded this organization. It was in 1973 that Joe Matthews, who headed the Northwest Economic Development Commission, gathered a group of interested citizens to support the formation of a land conservancy to facilitate the purchase of land for the expansion of North Carolina’s state parks.

The group adopted the name Friends of State Parks and lobbied the Legislature to form the Land Conservancy and fund it through a \$50 million bond issue. The General Assembly authorized the Conservancy but not the bond issue. While the bond issue was not approved, the publicity which it gave to State Parks led to an \$8.5 million appropriation by the 1975 General Assembly.

In 1978, Friends of State Parks became a permanent

organization with Alexander Davison as its first president. Since then, FSP has operated as “a citizens’ group dedicated to the understanding, enjoyment and protection of North Carolina’s State Parks.” Alexander Davison was succeeded as president by, in turn, Tom Ellis, Bob Conner, Ray Noggle, Al Radford, Jim Stevens, John Graham and current president David Pearson.

In the 40 years that FSP has actively lobbied on behalf of North Carolina State Parks, we have seen the implementation of a major bond issue, the establishment of a Parks Trust Fund, pay levels of Park Rangers brought in line with other law enforcement, a doubling of Parks’ land area and a 50% increase in the number of state parks.

We will leave a legacy for our children and their children who can look forward to the next forty years.

## Umstead State Park and Its Beginnings

*by Jane Hunt*

The area which is now William B. Umstead State Park was first settled in the early 1800’s. It was a farming community producing corn, cotton and moonshine. The cotton gave way to the boll weevil, the farms to soil depletion and erosion, and moonshine gave way to the diligence of the law. In the purchase application of 1934, an unflattering description of the owners was given: “The population is mainly poor, rather backward and uninformed as to urban ways and the possibilities of obtaining employment”. The Umstead Coalition, a support group for the park, has published a book by Tom Weber called, *Stories in Stone*. Weber details the creative strengths and perseverance of these early settlers. Remnants of these farmers and their families can still be seen in rock piles from clearing fields, cemeteries, roads, foundation stones and in the warmer months daffodils and other plants not usually seen in the wild, which reflect a caring for the land by the original settlers.

In the early 1930’s, the despair of the depression led to the Federal Government’s intervention with the purchase of 5,000 acres. The intention was to make a recreational forest. It was named Crabtree Creek Demonstration Area. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) came and built bridges, roads, dams, and campgrounds with simple cabins. It opened to the public in 1937. During World War II, several crews of British sailors used the cabins for short periods while their ships were being repaired at the coast. At one time during the war, military maneuvers brought 7,000 men and 500 vehicles into the park. In 1943 the State of North Carolina purchased the land for \$1.00 and renamed it Crabtree Creek State Park. Preservation of the park was a condition of the sale and the Park was formerly segregated with the Reedy Creek Section, south of Crabtree Creek, for blacks, only, and the northern land became Crabtree Creek Section for whites, only... There was no bridge joining the sections. In 1955, the park was renamed the William B. Umstead Park in honor of the late Governor Umstead, an environmentalist, who had died in office... It was not until 1966 that the whole park was opened to all people equally.

Today, Umstead Park is surrounded by urbanization, nestled in the center of the triangle made by Raleigh, Durham and Cary. Major roads are on three sides and RDU airport on the fourth, but still the vast size and lush tree cover of the park help the visitor feel a peaceful, isolated calm, unaware of the busyness of the outer edges.

Go take a lonely stroll on one of the trails or old roads, or take your bike, your horse or just jog some of the thirty miles available. Rent a canoe on the Big Lake, take your fishing gear, or have a picnic with family or friends. Be sure to stop at the Visitors’ Center, see the informative displays, or join a Ranger for one of their many programs which are geared for all ages.

# Friends of State Parks

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2013 THE YEAR OF THE WILDFLOWER

## FRIENDS OF STATE PARKS - OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

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

Website: [www.ncfsp.org](http://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 Board Meetings 2013

May 4, 2013	10 a.m.	Morrow Mountain SP
July 27, 2013	10 a.m.	Chimney Rock SP
November 3, 2013	11 a.m.	Lake Waccamaw SP

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