



Friends of State Parks

Supporting the State Parks of North Carolina since 1973

Conference Edition-March 2011

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

From the President

David Pearson

Our first state-wide conference, "**Friends of State Parks Take Flight**," was held January 21-23rd at Nags Head. The forecast for snow and a view of the ocean from our meeting room provided a dramatic backdrop for an exciting and productive conference. For the Friends who were able to attend, I think all will agree it was a successful event. Registration included representation from many organizations, including Staff, Park and Recreation Trust Fund Members, Park Advisory Committee members, and many local Friends Groups from across the state. Also, Friends from Virginia and South Carolina were present. Supporters of the aquariums, Audubon, and birding society attended as well.

After reading the conference evaluations and reviewing the notes from Sunday morning's session, it looks like our Friends Groups would like to continue holding conferences.

Everyone attending the conference agreed we need more communication between Friends Groups. And, Friends of State Parks should communicate with all local Friends Groups on a regular and continued basis. Also, these communications should be well enough in advance so local Friends Groups can plan to attend and participate in agenda items and projects. It sounds like everyone wants us to come out of our shell, which seems appropriate since 2011 is the year of the Turtle.

As president of Friends of State Parks, I promise to be mindful of your comments and to implement systems that will allow us to better communicate as a statewide group. I would like to

start by suggesting a regular meeting of Friends Group Presidents (or an appropriate representative) to discuss the statewide needs and direction of Friends of State Parks.

There are many ideas. We already have the Junior Ranger program, but some would like to see programs for other youth groups like high school and college students. Others have suggested a statewide Passport program to encourage the visitation of all State Parks. And, coordinated volunteer programs that are recognized statewide have also been mentioned. Many conference attendees suggested the need for district level meetings. These are just a few of the ideas that have come from our first conference.

As someone commented, excellent first meeting; keep energy alive!



Conference Friends gather at Jockey's Ridge State Park

The best way to keep the energy alive is to promote membership! It is as simple as asking a friend who shares your passion for State Parks to support your Friends Group. As friends groups grow across the state we not only build membership, we build friendships. We establish and maintain emotional connections with others and we build

social capital. Social Capital can play a key role in our efforts. After all, the old saying is... it's not what you know; it's who you know. It is hard to advocate, or influence elected officials, or raise funds for park support, or attract volunteers without membership.

I challenge each of you to go out and recruit one new member for your Friends Group each month.

Let's keep the energy alive, one friendship at a time!!!

Reflecting on Jockey's Ridge

by Jane Hunt

A long time ago I bought a square foot of Jockey's Ridge for \$10 and gave it to my son for his birthday present. It was 1973 and the State was trying to purchase the largest sand dune on the East Coast. It was threatened with being bulldozed and developed when Carolista Baum, a local citizen stepped in the path of the dozer and said she would remain there until it stopped. She was the one who started the campaign to raise the money. Carolista was able to arouse enough of us and by 1975, the General Assembly appropriated an additional \$50,000 to acquire 152 acres, and Jockey's Ridge State Park was established. Carolista is a perfect example of "one person making a difference".

The dune is about 85 feet high, the highest dune on the east coast. Estimated to be 30 million tons of sand...or 6 million dump truck loads. The height varies according to season and winds. In the summer the winds blow to the southwest, and in the winter the sand is pushed back when the winds blow from the northeast. In spite of this blowing back and forth, the ranger said the ridge had lost 23 feet since 1973...and once the ridge was 140 feet high....some of this sand came home in my shoes, and since the park gets over a million visitors a year, the loss is understandable.

When you visit the dunes you can climb to the top and get a good view of the Atlantic Ocean on one side and Roanoke Sound on

the other. Take a kite with you, the wind is always blowing. Between Oct. 1 and March 31st, you can sandboard with a permit from the office. If you are really serious, you could go to the hang gliding school and try your sailing luck. Sunset on the Ridge is said to be spectacular.

There are several trails, one which is about a mile long and on the Sound side, and the other is about 1 1/2 miles long and takes you across the park and over to the sound. The hot and dry climate of Jockey's Ridge attracts unusual plants; beach grass, cattails, sawgrass, duck potato and sedges. Animals, or their tracks, which you can see on these trails might include: raccoons, opossums, fox, mice and muskrats. Interested in birding? Late summer and fall brings migrating birds and warblers, sparrows, flycatchers may be

seen in the thickets. On the Sound side you may see a variety of waterfowl, especially in the winter.

In May of 2010, the park installed a 70 foot tall wind turbine, becoming the first State Park to do this. The electricity they are generating will save the Park about \$850 a year. An Environmental review has noted that the turbine has had no impact on the birds. On the Sound side, the local Friends Group has been placing oyster shells

which attract baby oysters who in turn attach themselves to the shells. So they get more oysters, build a habitat for other beneficial organisms, and then these critters clean the water, recycling and creating new life. Thank you Friends of Jockey's Ridge for setting such a fine example for us all.



Save the dunes.

They belong to the people.

*They represent the signature
of time and eternity.*

Their loss would be irrevocable.

-----*Carl Sandburg*

RENEWED CALL TO FRIENDING
by Riverdave Owen

North Carolina State Parks "Friends" Conference Kill Devil Hills, NC
January 22, 2011

*Friends of a natural area
Just what might that entail
Please join me fellow naturalists
Let's saunter down a trail.*

*Of longleaf pines on moonlit nights
A great horned owl we hear
He asks if we would lend a hand
Protect his night frontier.*

*Of frasier firs on lonely ridge
A cub and mama bear
They turn and look we hear them say
Attend to our welfare.*

*Of grand live oaks by tidal marsh
A laughing gull display
Will our grandchildren ever hear
This wild soliloquy?*

*Of lakes and hills one thousand rills
Send rivers to the sea
We've all been called to now befriend
Great Mother's symmetry.*

*Time seems to flow indifferently
As commerce marches on
Consuming natural habitat
Expanding brick and lawn.*

*But yet we find new sympathy
Take flight from Jockey's Ridge
Naturalists and friending folk
With sacred lineage.*

*The challenge is monumental
This task is consummate
Our State Parks cry for focused care
We must not hesitate ...*

Legislative Issues and Concerns

Senate Bill-13

This is an important time to understand the history and benefits to parks and park visitors of the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF). Taking designated PARTF funds to balance the budget which SB-13 does is shortsighted and poor stewardship. SB-13 was ratified by the House and Senate on February 14. The Governor's office is receiving calls asking her to veto the bill.

What can we all do?

Contact your state elected officials to inform them of your involvement in state parks and conservation efforts. Describe how you have benefited from parks being open and the environmental education activities available in park facilities many of which have been funded by PARTF. Contact information: (governor.office@nc.gov); for state legislators (see ncfsp.org).

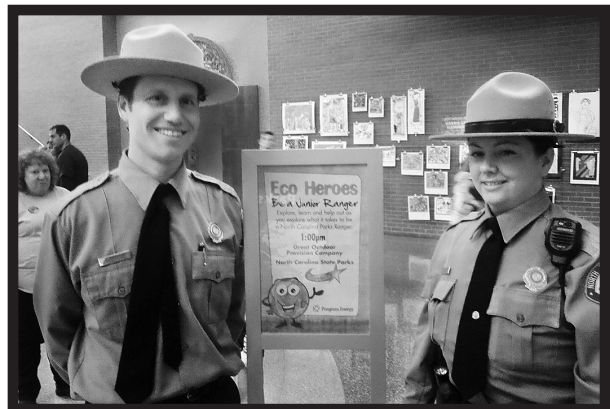
Land for Tomorrow Lobby Day

Attend Lobby Day in Raleigh on Tuesday, March 22nd to help tell our story and ensure continued support for the state's four conservation trust funds. For more information and to register for Lobby Day, go to <http://www.landfortomorrow.org>.

Mt. Jefferson State Park

Mt. Jefferson has been one of the models for local area support having been created in 1956 from donations of land and a local fund-raising effort to purchase other lands and to create the base lands for the state park. Concerns that the park may close because of state budget cuts have mobilized Friends of Mt. Jefferson to organize in support of the park. In the Governor's budget, the park would stay open. You can follow this at <http://friendsofmontjefferson.org>.

Marbles Kids Museum, Great Outdoor Provision Co., and the Division of Parks and Recreation teamed up February 5th at the museum to introduce children to environmental education through the Junior Ranger program. Sean Higgins of the Division and Ranger Kalish were excellent models of eco-heroes, the theme of the day.



Friends of State Parks
P.O. Box 37655, Raleigh, NC 27627

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Yes! I want to be a Friend of State Parks!

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** \$25.00
_____ **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:** _____

Local Friends Groups / Chapter Representatives

Crowders Mtn - Don Clapp, Kings Mountain, NC	donclapp@gmail.com
Dismal Swamp - Michele Aydlett, South Mills, NC	michele.aydlett@gmail.com
Fort Macon – Tom Kelly, Emerald Isle, NC	tomkelly@ec.rr.com
Goose Creek – Cathy Brown, Bath, NC	brown99@gotricounty.com
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Jockeys Ridge – Mark Dunlevy, Nags Head, NC	mrdunlevy@charter.net
Lake James – Jim Powers, Morganton, NC	powerscaton@bellsouth.net
Lake Waccamaw - Cathy Neilson, Lake Waccamaw NC	friendslwsp2002@yahoo.com
Mayo River – David Baker, Madison, NC	dbbaker8@gmail.com
Merchants Millpond – Dennis Helms, Gatesville, NC	dennishelms@embarqmail.com
Mount Jefferson – Jay Wild, Jefferson, NC	jowild@skybest.com
Mountains to Sea Trail – Kate Dixon, Raleigh, NC	kdixon@ncmst.org
Sauratown Mtns – Jay Young, Greensboro, NC	jayyoung@triad.rr.com
South Mountains - Walt Gravley, Morganton, NC	wvgravley@yahoo.com

FRIENDS OF STATE PARKS - OFFICERS and DIRECTORS
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Calendar

Next FSP Board Meetings
April 30 - 11 a.m. - Lake Singletary
July 30 - 10 a.m. - Stone Mountain
Oct. 29 - 11 a.m. - Medoc Mountain

Land for Tomorrow Lobby Day – March 22nd