

The Talking Forest

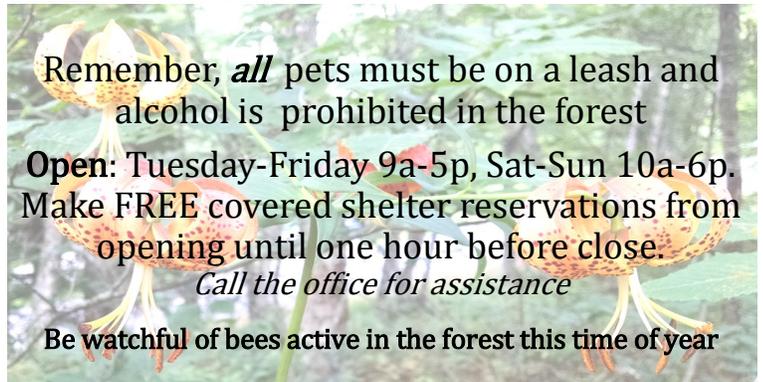
Holmes Educational State Forest

Volume 1 Edition 3 Summer 2016

Tap Your Roots into Volunteerism

Thanks again to all the hard work and volunteer efforts of community members this quarter. During National Service Week on April 15, a large group of AmeriCorps Project Conserve members helped maintain trails, improved the pollinator garden and washed educational displays including the helicopter.

Eagle Scout Sergio Antonio Castro lead efforts to built two new teaching podiums at the main and fire display amphitheaters. Thanks to our continued help from local youth groups and scouts as well as Tuesday afternoon volunteers, Lee and Kent. Sign up to be a part of the volunteering efforts in the forest. We can use your help in the pollinator garden, scouting for maintenance needs on the trails and other projects. The next day is Saturday, October 8 from 10am-2pm. Call Education Ranger Amy Kinsella to sign up, 828-692-0100.



Remember, **all** pets must be on a leash and alcohol is prohibited in the forest

Open: Tuesday-Friday 9a-5p, Sat-Sun 10a-6p.
Make **FREE** covered shelter reservations from opening until one hour before close.

Call the office for assistance

Be watchful of bees active in the forest this time of year

Cavity Nesters

Next time you hike between the picnic shelter and forestry center look for a white ash tree with trunk cavity holes on the western side. These were constructed over a single weekend in early spring by a pileated woodpecker. The search for carpenter ants and other insects left many distinctive rounded rectangular holes. Even if the woodpecker never nests here, these new cavities are useful for owls, swifts, and bats. These large birds can be easily identified by their large red head crest, black and white feather pattern, and loud whinny calls....think "forest dolphin." In a smaller tree this kind of large and broad excavation could cause the tree to break in half (*Source: Cornell Lab of Ornithology*).



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What's Blooming

If you walk in the woods between late February and early November you can see the symphony of over a hundred species of blooming flowers. Our website www.ncesf.org/HESF/home.htm now features a "What's Blooming" page, please feel free to email us with your forest observations. We also have a corresponding display upon entering the trails in the forest.



Canopy Conversations (General Forest updates)

In early July, Education Ranger Amy Kinsella helped lead a forestry day, along side of NCFS Assistant District Forester Jennifer Roach and Andy Miller from the Soil and Water Conservation District in Davidson County. NC Environment teachers met at Blue Jay Point County Park in Raleigh, where they learned about tree identification. They also studied forestry products, insects and diseases and forestry measurement tools including the Biltmore Stick. Amy dressed as Dr. Carl A. Schenck and shared how the original Biltmore Stick was an axe handle held horizontal to each tree.



2016 Program Schedule

Kids and Family Programs

EE Workshops, Category II

- Saturday, July 23 11am-noon HESF
Join rangers in a craft, make a wildlife safari hat and explore the habitats in the forest. Bring your lunch and picnic following the program.
- Saturday, August 13 11am-1pm DuPont SRF Visitor Center
Celebrate Smokey Bear's 72nd Birthday. Crafts, games and a visit from Smokey. No RSVP required, meet at High Falls Parking Lot.

- Saturday, Sept. 24 8am-10am HESF Campground
Join rangers at the HESF campground for birding basics in the forest. Bring your own binoculars and enjoy a morning hike.
- Saturday, Oct 22 11am-1pm DuPont SRF
Meet at Corn Mill Shoals parking lot for a lunch picnic and fall tree id hike to a wonderful view shed. Expect a short, slow but steep climb.



All programs require an RSVP

For more information contact Amy Kinsella, Education Ranger (828) 692-0100
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