



# Outdoor Update

From Lake Toxaway to Asheville – Including Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, and Transylvania Counties

## Highlights for the Season

Fall 2009

### Heavy Rains Impact Facilities, Roads and Trails.

Heavy rain events in late September caused flooding and many trails, roads, and facilities have been damaged. **Yellow Gap Road (1206)** and **Avery Creek Road (477)** have been temporarily closed due to slides and unsafe conditions. Many other trails and roads have not been fully assessed and visitors are encouraged to use extra caution near streams and in low-lying areas.

### Schedule for Developed Facilities

- **Pisgah Ranger Station Visitor Center:** Monday – Friday, 8 to 5, Saturdays from 9 to 5, and Sundays from 1 to 5 until October 31st
- **Campgrounds**
  - **Davidson River:** Open Year Round
  - **North Mills River Recreation Area:** Open Year Round,
  - **Lake Powhatan Recreation Area:** Open until 11/1/09
  - **Sunburst:** Open until 11/1/09
- **Picnic Areas**

**Starting 10/1 the District will begin taking reservations for Sycamore Flats and Pink Beds Picnic Shelters. For reservation information please call the District office (828) 877-3265**

- **Sycamore Flats:** Open with restrooms
- **North Mills River:** Open (vault toilets only)
- **Lake Powhatan:** Open until 11/1/09
- **All others:** Open without restrooms

- **Sliding Rock: No lifeguards or open restrooms**
- **Group Campgrounds (Cove Creek, Kuykendall, and White Pines) are open year round to groups with reservations.**

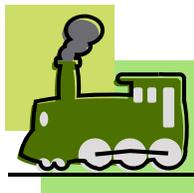
*Reservations for Group Camps and Campgrounds on the reservation system can be made by calling 1-877-444-6777 (toll-free)*

### American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Projects announced for Pisgah Ranger District

1. 3 New roof's on Historic Structures at the Cradle of Forestry
2. Paving of Discovery Trail at the Cradle of Forestry
3. Replacement of English Chapel Bridge & Courthouse Creek Bridge
4. Frying Pan Fire Tower Restoration
5. Pink Beds Shelter Roof Repair

*This update is published by the USDA Forest Service, Pisgah Ranger District. If you have any suggestions for improvement or would like more information, please call Jeff Owenby at 828-877-3265 or come by our office at 1600 Pisgah Highway (U.S. 276), Pisgah Forest, NC 28768. For more information about the National Forests in North Carolina visit [www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc](http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc).*

## *Cradle of Forestry*



### **Sept. 26: National Public Lands Day: Bi-lingual Water Wonders Programs**

In honor of the 15<sup>th</sup> annual National Public Lands Day, the Cradle of Forestry will offer family-oriented programs in Spanish at 10:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and in English at 1:30 p.m. All ages are invited to come enjoy the Cradle of Forestry free of charge on this special day!

As a tribute to this year's national Water Initiative, a Cradle of Forestry naturalist will lead a "Water Wonders!" ("Maravillas del Agua") walk along the wheelchair accessible 1.3-mile paved Forest Festival Trail. The walk will highlight the historical uses of public lands, and the many ways in which our forests affect watersheds and water quality. Following the one-hour tour, children ages 5-12 are invited to participate in a short game, "Go to the Head of the Cloud," ("Ve la Cime de la Nube") in which they will learn about the water cycle and its importance to living things.

### **October 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 3:00 p.m.: *Fall from the Deck***

Relax in a rocking chair on the Forest Discovery Center deck and enjoy the view while a naturalist helps you see the trees for the forest and the forest for the trees. Many different species of trees, shrubs and vines are visible from here. Plant identification, folklore, and stories of the fall forest are included in this Thursday afternoon program series. Each program lasts about 20 minutes.

### **October 3 Forest Festival Day and Woodsmen's Meet**

More than 80 traditional craftsmen, exhibitors and entertainers gather at the Cradle of Forestry to celebrate our forests and forest heritage. Highlights include live music, wood carvers, weavers, a blacksmith, and the John G. Palmer Intercollegiate Woodsmen's Meet, a lumberjack competition, organized by Haywood Community College. Admission to the Cradle of Forestry for this event is \$6.00 for ages 16 and older; youth 15 and under and Golden Age and Golden Eagle Passports get in for ½ price on this special day. (\$3.00) For more information call 828-877-3130 or go to [www.cradleofforestry.org](http://www.cradleofforestry.org).

### **October 9-11: Camping in the Old Style**

Visit with a small group of outers in a reconstructed campsite of the late 1800's and early 1900's. At this time in history much of the Pisgah Ranger District belonged to George Vanderbilt of Biltmore House fame. Gifford Pinchot, first chief of the USDA

Forest Service, and Dr. Carl Alwin Schenck, founder of the Biltmore Forest School, both foresters hired by Vanderbilt, roamed these woods back then. It was a time when camping meant sleeping under canvas and cooking over an open fire. Here in the wood smoke, surrounded by the outdoor gear of a by-gone day, the traditional skills of camp and trail will be practiced in their proper setting.

“Camping in the Old Style” will be presented by the Traditional Outdoor Skills Program, Schiele Museum of Natural History, Gastonia, North Carolina.

### **October 23 & 24: *The Legend of Tommy Hodges* outdoor drama**

A mystery over time becomes a legend, and a legend grows in the telling . . . It was Halloween night in 1906 when one of the students from the Biltmore Forest School, the fictitious Tommy Hodges, disappeared. The Cradle of Forestry will present this outdoor drama about the first forestry school in America on Friday, October 23 and Saturday, October 24. Shows begin at 6:30 p.m., 7:45 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. and go on whatever the weather. Reservations are required.

This outdoor drama along the paved Biltmore Campus Trail includes characters and stories based on the diaries of students who attended the historic Biltmore Forest School from 1903-1907. The show is one mile long, meaning the audience walks one mile to see the entire play, so audience members are asked to dress warm, wear walking shoes and bring a flashlight. Admission to the show is \$6.00 for ages 16 and up, \$3.00 for ages 5-15 and America the Beautiful and Golden Age Passport holders and includes hot cider and cookies.



### *Trails*

The Pisgah Ranger District and Town of Brevard have partnered to begin work on the **Estatoe Trail** which is located off of 64 West, across from Lowes Home Improvement Store. This historic trail was once used as a trade route for Native Cherokees into South Carolina. This will be an ongoing project and it will not be open to the public until all construction is completed.

The District has also completed a project on **Wolf Branch Trail** to improve a stream crossing.

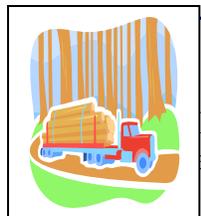


## Fisheries

Work has started on the **North Mills River Project** which will stabilize the stream banks and improve aquatic and streamside habitat. Work will involve installing stream structures, re-sloping the stream banks, relocating a small section of trail, and treating noxious, non-native invasive species. This project is scheduled to be completed by October 15, 2009.

The North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission has partnered with the Forest Service to construct a new handicap accessible pier at Sycamore Flats, which is now open.

The fishing pier at Lake Powhatan has been refurbished during the summer of 2009.



## Timber Sales & Road Repair Projects

Road Grading contracts will continue until October 30<sup>th</sup> on the following roads: Davidson River, 229 (Pilot Mtn), 471 Catheys Creek), 475B (Headwaters), 477 Creek), 1206 (Yellow Gap), 476 (Wolf Ford), 5000 (Wash Creek), 479 (Bent Creek), 297 (Turkey Pen), 142 (Hendersonville Reservoir), 298 (Check Station), and 5061 (Starens Branch)

**North Boundary Road ( 485)** will be closed from the intersection with **Ledford Branch Road (FSRD #479E)** to Ingles Fields Gap on Mondays through Fridays due to road reconstruction.

**Ingles Fields Gap Connector (# 150A) and Ingles Fields Gap (#150) trails are available as alternate routes.**

**Baldwin Gap** timber sale is currently underway. Log hauling trucks will be using Rice Pinnacle Road (NFSR 191) and NCSR 1129. Please be careful in this area of Bent Creek Experimental Forest.

**Pressley Fields Timber Sale** is currently underway. Log trucks will be using Macedonia Church Road (NCSR1325) and Silversteen Road (NCSR 1309) in southwest Transylvania County



## Camping Reminders

Dispersed camping is **not** allowed within 1,000 feet of any road open to public vehicle travel, except at designated, signed roadside campsites.

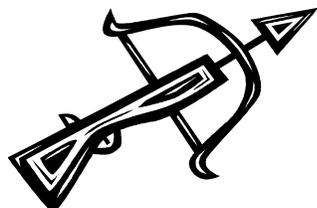
(Primitive campsites beyond the 1000-foot limit are not designated; please follow *Leave No Trace* practices.) No camping is allowed within the boundary of the **Bent Creek Experimental Forest** or in the vicinity of **Moore Cove Falls**.



## A wildfire can happen at any time!

**Please exercise caution with all fire**—build fires only in grills and fire rings. Be sure your fire is completely out before leaving. Remember, campfires are **NOT** permitted in **Shining Rock** or **Middle Prong Wilderness** areas.

## Wildlife



### Hunting Season Dates to Remember:

Deer season for bow and arrow runs through October 3rd and then from October 12 through November 21<sup>st</sup>

Deer muzzleloader season is October 5 through October 10

Deer gun season begins November 23 through December 12

Bear season begins October 12 through November 21, and then December 12 through January 1, 2010

Keys and sign-up for the Disabled Hunter Program will be available on November 19<sup>th</sup> at the Pisgah District Office.

All North Carolina state game laws must be obeyed and other trail users in the forest are encouraged to wear orange.