

DuPont State Forest: Beauty born of controversy

These Hills...

By John M. Climer
Editor in Chief

For this week's installment of "These Hills," we'll travel a little further away from Brevard to look at another beautiful outdoor haven we have the opportunity to enjoy: DuPont State Forest.

Last year alone, DuPont offered roughly 146,000 visitors access to over 10,000 acres of forest, trails and waterfalls. DuPont is also locally renowned for being a bike and horseback haven.

DuPont hosts some of the most beautiful and accessible waterfalls in the Western North Carolina, and according to last years Forest Supervisor Report, nearly half of the visitors to the forest stopped by Hooker Falls to enjoy the scenery. The other 50 percent of visitors divvied their time up among the forests other falls – Bridal Veil, Cedar Rock Mountain, Corn Mill Shoals, Grassy Creek, High, Lake Julia, Stone Mountain, Triple and Wintergreen Falls.

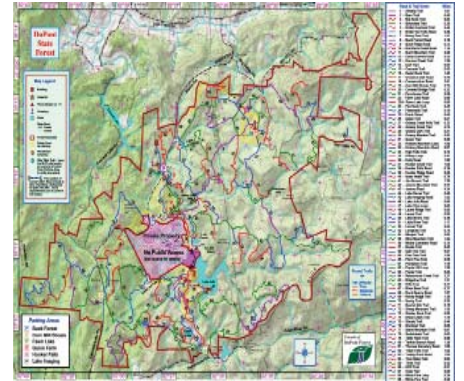
Unlike Pisgah, DuPont is still in its infancy as a protected wilderness area, with it's inception as a State Forest beginning in 1995 and spanning through three major phases, which finally concluded in 2000.

As the Forest grew, a controversial "fight for the falls" developed between North Carolina and Jim Anthony, developer of the Cliffs Communities. The result of the controversy came to a head in the winter of 2000, when Attorney General Mike Easley publicly stated that waterfalls in the heart of the Forest should be protected from any additional development and should also be guaranteed accessible to the public.

Easley went on to say that North Carolina would use its power of eminent domain to acquire the waterfalls if it became necessary and on April 4th, Governor Jim Hunt and the Council of State made an unexpected declaration, asserting that the entire 2200 acre tract under question would be condemned if negotiations to protect the land and allow public access failed. As tensions grew, Anthony finally broke from decorum by ending a voluntary cease in construction, which forced Hunt to act.

The result: Hunt and the Council of State voted unanimously to obtain the land through eminent domain, stripping Anthony of the contested area and thereby establishing the final tract of DuPont State Forest.

Controversy aside, DuPont is a beautiful stretch of forest with amazing waterfall vistas and countless numbers of blissful outdoor opportunities to all who visit and everyone is encouraged to enjoy the Forest during your stay at Brevard College.



A map of DuPont State Forest

Editorial: Stewart's 'Rally to Restore Sanity' hypocritical

By Daily 49er
via UWIRE

There are many annoying things that can occur during an argument that make it a waste of time. Among these things are fighting with a 5-year-old – or someone with the mentality of one – fighting with someone who speaks another language and fighting with either your parents or your boss because, well, no one ever wins those arguments.

However, we find the most annoying thing to be fighting with someone who believes that being the loudest qualifies them as the winner. Sorry, but the pitch of your voice does not affect what you are saying. It only makes you look out-of-control. Being loud also applies to people who go to the extreme in attempts to prove their point. So for the sake of our argument, go ahead and read this editorial at-most twice and in a quiet whisper in your head.

Fortunately, though, we aren't the only ones who feel this way. On Oct. 30 John Stewart will lead a "Rally to Restore Sanity" in Washington D.C.

According to its official website, the rally is for "people who think shouting is annoying, counterproductive and terrible for your throat;

who feel that the loudest voices shouldn't be the only ones that get heard."

Stewart wants the "busy majority," those "who've been too busy to go to rallies, who actually have lives and families and jobs," to attend the rally. If only the Daily 49er could attend such an event. A dosage of moderation is definitely what this country needs, especially in politics. Of course, certain issues need attention and we aren't ones to discourage voicing your opinion, but doing so shouldn't require two sides to engage in an all out war against one another.

Since it is critical to be able to acknowledge both sides of an issue – see what we're doing here – we know that both sides must be expressed, but they shouldn't be expressed with screams. People can make reasonable and appropriate decisions without all the craziness. People should be able to see eye-to-eye on an issue, without having to look up or down at someone to do so.

There is just one problem with rallying at the Washington Monument in order to encourage America to "take it down a notch," though. Drawing big crowds of people would be hypocritical. Stewart may be a satirist, but at some point he has to be held accountable for

what he literally does.

There is one person who took the hypocrisy a step further though. Glenn Beck, whose August rally "Restoring Honor" is basically being mocked by Stewart's.

Beck attempted to link patriotism and religion on the anniversary of the "I Have a Dream" speech of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Beck's rally drew in predominantly white and conservative crowds. The political view of the anticipated participants for Stewart's upcoming rally couldn't be summed up in just a single sentence but that doesn't mean he's not being hypocritical.

Taking place on the same day as Stewart's, Stephen Colbert's rally "March to Keep Fear Alive," dichotomizes it.

Colbert is obviously poking fun with the title since it's impossible to escape all the warnings that are loudly expressed. We just need to get rid of those ideas that are exaggerated and settle for some moderation.

