

CRADLE NEWS

Winter 2003

Reestablishing the Biltmore Forest School with the Woodland Owners Short Course

In October of 2003, the Cradle of Forestry graduated its first class of students from the Biltmore Forest School since 1913. Seventeen people graduated after participating in a series of workshops. *The Woodland Owners Short Course* is a six-part series on understanding your land. The goals of the workshops are to encourage landowners to manage their land to promote environmental and forest health within the system of which it is a part, through increased awareness, experience and access to resources. With landowners' management goals in mind, the workshops will lead participants toward creating goals for managing their land.

The workshops will be offered again in 2004. If you are a landowner with 20 acres or less in Western North Carolina, the Cradle of Forestry in America and its partners invite you to participate in a series of workshops to learn how to manage your land. Cost is \$25.00 a person, per workshop, with spouse or other family member at \$15.00 per workshop. The 6th workshop is free for participants who take all workshops. To graduate participants must complete 3 out of the first 5 workshops. **To register call Alice Goldstein at 828-877-3350 ext. 203 or email at agoldstein@fs.fed.us.**

Dates of the 2004 Woodland Owners Short Course

- June 5 Discover Your Land
- June 26 Wildlife and Wild Plants
- July 10 Woodscaping
- July 24 Homes in the Forest
- August 14 Playing on Your Land/Recreation
- August 28 Stewardship of Your Land and Graduation Ceremony

These workshops are sponsored by: Cradle of Forestry in America, NCSU Extension Service, Greenleaf Forest Management, Transylvania Soil and Water Conservation District, NC Division of Forest Resources, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, NCSU Upper French Broad Watershed Training Center, USDA Forest Service and the Cradle of Forestry Interpretive Association.

For more information on the Cradle of Forestry or the Cradle of Forestry Interpretive Association go to: www.cradleofforestry.com or call the Cradle at 828-877-3130 or the CFAIA at 828-884-5713.

From the Executive Director's Desk:

Dear Friends,

This has been an exciting year at the Cradle of Forestry Interpretive Association. The Cradle of Forestry Foundation was established in February, and we received an anonymous million dollar challenge gift to get us started. We established several new programs in our campground education program, and received three significant grants to support the following projects: the Woodland Owners Workshops, the Sycamore Flats Centennial Project, and the Cradle of Forestry. To all of you who supported CFAIA this year—Thank You!

In our sales operations: We have added sales outlets in the Ouachita National Forest in Arkansas and Oklahoma, and a new joint venture in TN at the western end of the Cherohalla Skyway and a new center at Wilson Creek in NC. Our campgrounds had a good year, considering the record rainfall during peak camping season, and our new operation at Cascade Lake near Brevard went well. At the Cradle of Forestry, we reestablished music at the Cradle with our Songcatcher series; we hosted two Woodsmen's Meets, had record attendance at both Forest Festival Day and Tommy Hodges; and finally, a personal highlight for me was hosting the Schenck Family reunion at the Cradle in June.

CFAIA projects planned for 2004:

- *Sycamore Flats Centennial*—to improve the recreation facilities and stabilize the river corridor, enhancing the environment for aquatic life while improving the recreation opportunities—a true multiple use project—at Sycamore Flats on the Davidson River at the entrance to the Pisgah District. CFAIA will join with the USDA Forest Service, the Pisgah Forest Rotary Club, the Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Schenck Job Corps, NC State University Extension, Transylvania County Recreation Commission, the National Forest Foundation and other partners to make this happen.
- CFAIA will also be involved with the *Capitol Holiday Tree* program in partnership with the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests in Virginia.
- The Cradle of Forestry will have a loaded schedule, offering a wide variety of programs. There are a lot of other things in the works—keep your eyes open for updates.

On behalf of all of the "Cradle Crew," I extend best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a blessed 2004!

God Bless us Everyone!

Harry Hafer

Executive Director for CFAIA

2004 Special Events Dates
Open daily, April 10—November 7, 2004

April 10	Old-Time Plowing and Planting
April 17	Landscaping with Native Plants
April 23	Deadline for Spring Photo Contest
April 24	Migratory Bird Day
May 1	Walk to the Wetlands
May 8	The REAL Cold Mountain-Wild by Law
May 9	Mother's Day and Trees in May
May 15	Wildflower ID
May 22	How to Camp with Kids
May 29	Mountain Laurel Festival
June 5	Woodland Owners Short Course
June 5	Bug Day
June 12	Salamander Saturday
June 19	Walk to the Wetlands
June 19	Fire in the Forest
June 20	Father's Day in the Forest
June 26	SAWA Pro Lumberjack Meet
June 26	Woodland Owners Short Course
July 3	Reading the Woods
July 3	Junior Forest Ranger Program kids aged 7-12
July 3	Twilight Tour looking for Fireflies
July 4	Songcatcher Music Series at 3:30 p.m.
July 10	Afternoon Tea with the Llamas
July 10	Woodland Owners Short Course
July 11	Songcatcher Music Series at 3:30 p.m.
July 17	Bog Exploration
July 18	Songcatcher Music Series at 3:30 p.m.
July 24	Tools Used to Survive the Late 1800's
July 24	Woodland Owners Short Course
July 25	Songcatchers Music Series at 3:30 p.m. with Sheila Kay Adams
July 31	Air Awareness
August 7	Smokey Bear's Birthday Party
August 14	The Wonders of Wood
August 14	Woodland Owners Short Course
August 21	Train History Day
August 28	Orienteering—map and compass
August 28	Graduation-Woodland Owners Short Course
September 4	Terrific Tree Day
September 11	Butterflies and Gardens
September 18	Public Lands Day
September 25	Bird Program
October 2	Forest Festival Day
October 2	Woodsmen's Meet—college lumberjack meet
October 9	Guided Hike to Soapstone Ridge
October 16	Exploring the Fall Forest
October 22/23	"The Legend of Tommy Hodges"

Beyond the Scavenger Hunt

OK, so you know where to find the bear on the tree and the pine cone in the Forest Discovery Center's exhibit hall. You've found the skunk when it's been moved around. The valentine, the toy phone, even the purple violet—found them! So what's next?

Currently three versions of the Forest Discovery Center scavenger hunt entice our visitors. One has mostly animals and plants on it, another more objects. The third is for readers and has no pictures on it, but many more things to look for than the other two. Then there are the Fact Safaris!

Cradle employees over the years designed Forest Discovery Center Fact Safaris with visiting school children in mind, but these may be of interest to any visitors who want to engage themselves deeper in exhibit content. The newest and most elementary, *Fun Forest Facts*, combines the fun features of the illustrated scavenger hunts with information from the Habitat Game and questioning. The next level, designed for 4th grade and up, *The Cradle of Forestry Fact Safari*, requires some information processing from the exhibits for matching and multiple choice questions, while giving clues to where answers can be found. *The Plant Safari* combines a mapping activity with information about the interdependence of plants and animals, focusing around The Big Tree exhibit.

The most advanced *Forest Discovery Fact Safari* directs learners to exhibits holding answers to fill-in-the-blanks and multiple choice questions and requires skimming exhibit panels for key words. Although this fact safari requires the most information processing, it addresses well forest ecology, forestry history, and multiple use forestry. Combine it with the Forest Management Game touchscreen computer activity and you're bound to leave with a better understanding of the natural and social sciences behind today's forest management. The exhibit hall volunteer has answer sheets to this and the other Fact Safaris.

In 2004, look for a new brochure on the *Blue Ribbon Trees and Shrubs* along the Forest Festival Trail that will lead you on a scavenger hunt of sorts in the great outdoors. Volunteer Forester Nels Glesne installed a system of numbered markers along the Trail associated with selected trees and shrubs to help visitors recognize the great diversity of plants growing together in the wooded area defined by the Forest Festival Trail. Who knows what else may be available to test your observation skills! May you enjoy them all!

Cindy Carpenter
Education/Interpretation Program Manager
US Forest Service—Cradle of Forestry

Power to the People!

Have you ever had the experience of trying to gain the attention of a group of chattering thirteen-year-old girls? Well, I have and let me tell you about it. I first chose to hold my hand in the air and remain silent until the students were ready to continue with the program. This interpretive tool helps us to focus the students' attention. As the roaring mob lowered their voices to a minor tremor, I put my hand down and began the program.

While at the Cradle of Forestry this sixth grade class experienced both an informative indoor power point program and a hike to an abandoned beaver dam. The indoor section consists of a relevant background on the beaver and it's habitat. Then while out on the Pink Beds trail, the students investigate an area of the Pisgah National Forest that has markings of beaver activity. While at the beaver pond we had a brief discussion of habitat requirements and forest succession that the students were observing.

One of the key points we discuss in this Bogs, Bugs and Beavers program is the positive and negative impacts that beavers can have on our forests. To determine if there was any life that benefited from the beaver eating and felling the trees, we use our dip-nets to search for aquatic life forms that benefited from the beaver and other influences to enhance this wetland area. On the negative side, beavers have the ability to process plant cellulose, thus making trees such as birch and cherry a tasty meal. On the other hand, woodpeckers waterfowl, snakes and many species of insects gain (habitat requirements) a nifty home in the standing dead trees. As one of the students concluded, "When beavers kill the trees it helps bugs have homes..." Beavers are a natural part of our forest ecosystem, and for better or worse; they play an important role in forest succession.

Here at the Cradle of Forestry we strive to develop a citizen that is knowledgeable about their national forests and the valuable natural resources. It is hoped that through the educational process, with programs such as the Bogs, Bugs and Beavers program, the student finds a sense of place or ownership in their national forests. Additionally, the student should develop feelings of empowerment in all areas of their lives, through this learning process. In other words, the more we know about our forests the more we care about their well-being.

A terrific example of this empowerment happened as this Bogs, Bugs and Beavers program was ending. Megan Cash (a student), with a smile on her face, held her fist up in the air and shouted "power to the people", as we were hiking back to the Forest Discovery Center. Other girls then laughing joined in with Megan. This was in reference to one of the quite tools that I used at the beginning of this program to help the students focus on important information (be quiet and stop talking now).

So even if Megan and her friends were simply mocking me (more than likely), I feel that it was in the spirit of their experience that they had left the forest that day with a greater sense of place here at the Cradle of Forestry. So through their empowering experience, one might say they had a "Cradle Moment."

Wess Klunk -CFAIA Interpretive Specialist at the Cradle of Forestry in America

Winter Camping with the CFAIA

The Cradle of Forestry Interpretive Association (CFAIA), in partnership with the US Forest Service, will have the following campgrounds open for the winter:

- **Davidson River Campground—NC**
Hwy. 276 in the Pisgah National Forest near Brevard, NC. Regular sites are \$15.00 and \$18.00. Limited full hook-ups available at \$22.00 per night.
- **North Mills River Campground—NC**
Follow signs off of Hwy. 280 in the Mills River area. Sites are \$4.00 with limited services.
- **Double Lake Recreation Area—TX**
55 miles north of Houston near I-59. Sites range in price from \$15.00—\$25.00. Lots of full hook-ups.

**To make reservations call toll free
(877)444-6777**

In the Interest of Your Interest . . .

...A request from Cindy Carpenter,
Education/Interpretation Program Manager

What a year 2003 has been for our event programming at the Cradle of Forestry in America Historic Site! I feel good about the variety of activities offered and the participation we had, and look forward to our 2004 public programs. I hope you enjoyed those you attended.

In an effort to continuously improve our offerings at the Cradle of Forestry and to meet the interests of our visitors, I find I want to learn more about you: the members of the Cradle of Forestry Interpretive Association and season passholders to the special place where I work. Please give a little time to the questions that follow and mail, email, or call in your thoughts to me at: Cindy Carpenter, US Forest Service, 1001 Pisgah Hwy., Pisgah Forest, NC 28768, ccarpenter02@fs.fed.us or 828-877-3130.

1. Do you look for programs targeting adults or children?
2. If you have children you would share the Cradle with, what are their ages?
3. What might the Cradle offer of interest to youth ages 12 to 17?
4. What has been your favorite activity or event at the Cradle? Was there one that disappointed you?
5. What's something new you would like the Cradle of Forestry to offer?

Your thoughts on any or all of the questions listed above are so appreciated! Thank you, and I hope to see you at the Cradle of Forestry in 2004!