



PRESS RELEASE

September 22, 2006

Cradle of Forestry in America Historic Site

1001 Pisgah Highway
Pisgah Forest, NC 28768

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Who:

What: **Forest Festival Day**

Where: **Cradle of Forestry in America Historic Site**

When: **October 7, 2006 starting at 9:00 am**

Price: **Admission for this event is \$5.00 for ages 16 and older; youth 15 and under and Golden Age and Golden Eagle Passports are admitted at ½ price.**

Website: www.cradleofforestry.org

For calendar listings: www.cradleofforestry.org



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Family Fun at Forest Festival Day

Pisgah National Forest, NC . . . The Fall Season is upon us and visitors can celebrate the forest at this spectacular time of year with a rainbow of colors, crisp cool days, and clear mountain views in the Pisgah National Forest. Join the Cradle of Forestry as they host their fall festival, Forest Festival Day on Saturday, October 7th from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. sponsored by STIHL. This fun-filled family event commemorates the rich forest heritage of western North Carolina by experiencing the traditions of mountain living and woodcraft in this unique and beautiful setting. More than 30 traditional craftsmen, exhibitors, and musicians will be located along the two paved trails at the Cradle of Forestry to help celebrate.

Along the Biltmore Campus Trail you can visit with living history interpreters and traditional mountain craft demonstrators such as: toy makers, weavers, wood carvers, an Appalachian basket maker, fiddle maker and a blacksmith. There will also be demonstrations on open-hearth cooking, making hominy and old-time tools.

Over in the corral visitors can cheer as college forestry students compete in an old-time lumberjack competition called a Woodsmen's Meet. This event is organized by Haywood Community College and sponsored by STIHL. Events throughout the day include: dendrology, archery, orienteering, axe throwing, pulpwood toss, bolt splitting, crosscut sawing, log rolling, pole felling, pole climbing and chainsaw. There will be five colleges competing: Haywood Community College, Clyde, NC; Montgomery Community College, Troy, NC; Penn State, Mont Alto, PA; Penn College, Williamsport, PA; and Dabney S. Lancaster Community College, Clifton Forge, VA. If you plan on spending a couple of hours at the Woodsmen's Meet we recommend that you bring a chair or blanket to sit on. The events will run from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Don't miss the Amphitheater Stage with traditional Appalachian mountain music playing. Dowden Sisters Band from Asheville takes the stage at 12:00 noon to get the music started for the day. They perform old-time songs in the traditional style. At 1:00 p.m. it's time to get rowdy with Transylvania County's Hogtown Squealers. The Squealers' unique take on old time fiddle music, classic honky-tonk, and obscure musical miscellany has delighted listeners and dancers aged two to ninety-two in Western North Carolina for over 20 years. Then at 2:00 p.m. enjoy the Mountain Dew-et. They will be

playing traditional mountain songs and gospel tunes. The band consists of Bob and Patsy Allen of Mars Hill, NC.

Be sure to check out the Forest Festival Trail with crosscut sawing, tree felling and train history. Grab a partner and try your hand at the crosscut saw while making a tree cookie to take home. Then head over to the old sawmill to talk with John Lively as he demonstrates tree felling. Learn about train history at the 1915 Climax logging locomotive and climb on board to ring the bell. Also look for the fly-tying tent and try casting for one of the big trout in the pond.

For folks who get hungry during the day, there will be BBQ, hot dogs, pizza, baked potatoes, corn on the cob, chips, drinks and snacks available. The food will be available in three locations: inside the Forest Discovery Center snack bar, outside the Forest Discovery Center as you head out on the trails and at the Woodsmen's Meet. Visitors are also welcome to pack a picnic.

Dr. Carl A. Schenck, forester for George Vanderbilt from 1895 – 1909, started the Biltmore Forest School in 1898. At a time when the word "forestry" was a vague and newfangled idea, Dr. Schenck invited businessmen, lumbermen, politicians, and educators to the Biltmore Forest Fair in 1908 to show the accomplishments and possibilities of practical forestry. Forest Festival Day celebrates this heritage as we continue to look for new possibilities.

For more information about any of the activities offered on Forest Festival Day please call the Cradle of Forestry at 828-877-3130. Admission for this event is \$5.00 for ages 16 and older; youth 15 and under and Golden Age, Access, and Golden Eagle Passport holders are admitted at ½ price. Admission includes an 18-minute film, the Forest Discovery Center with 15 hands-on exhibits, a scavenger hunt, a firefighting helicopter simulator, historic cabins and antique equipment on two paved trails, living history interpreters and a 1915 Climax logging locomotive.

The Cradle of Forestry is located on Hwy. 276 in the Pisgah National Forest, six miles north of Looking Glass Falls and four miles south of the Blue Ridge Parkway. For more information call 828-877-3130 or go to www.cradleofforestry.org.

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