

October 8

Roots of forestry grow in Western North Carolina

October 8, 2005 – Asheville, North Carolina – The Bent Creek Experimental Forest and the Southern Research Station sponsored a wonderful celebration on the grounds of the historic experimental forest near Asheville.

Bent Creek Experimental Forest is one of the oldest research areas maintained by the USDA Forest Service. Since 1925, scientists have been developing and demonstrating sound forestry practices. Their research - both early and current - on fire, insects, diseases, timber, wildlife, water, and recreation is being applied over much of the Southern Appalachians. Specific research plots have been developed to showcase proven forest management practices and demonstrate new research findings to land managers, landowners, researchers, students, and the general public.

The Fiddlin' Foresters were part of a day-long celebration that used demonstrations, exhibits, tours and presentations to raise the awareness of visitors about the important research that Bent Creek provides for the practice of forestry and land management.

**Susan Mathews** from the Experimental Forest hosted the Fiddlin' Foresters with help from **Perdita Spriggs**.

"The Forest Service is so diverse and there is so much going on," said **Jane Leche**. "We don't often get to see all the important activities that research provides. It is an essential part of land management. Our agency is proud that we have always used science based management. Today was an eye-opener for me and all the other folks that attended this fun celebration."

"Performing in this historic setting in the beautiful North Carolina mountains was a hoot!," said **Jim Maxwell**. "It added to my appreciation for the immensity of the national forests and the Forest Service as an agency. It was also an honor to be introduced on stage by the new Forest Supervisor of the National Forests in North Carolina, Marysue Hillard, an old friend and colleague."



The Fiddlin' Foresters were joined by **Cindy Carpenter**, a talented Forest Service manager from the Cradle of Forestry near Brevard, North Carolina.



The public enjoys the Centennial presentation among historic buildings and beautiful surroundings of the Bent Creek Experimental Forest.



In 1925 the Forest Service set aside 1,100 acres of the Bent Creek area for research by the Appalachian Forest Experiment Station, which Congress had established in 1921