

THE NC MUSEUM OF FORESTRY SHOULD NOT BE CLOSED

The North Carolina Museum of Forestry celebrates the natural history and cultural heritage of North Carolina's forests and forestry through interpretive and interactive exhibits, educational programming and the preservation of natural and man-made materials that demonstrate the ongoing relationships of forests and people.

Economic consequences

- The NC Museum of Forestry completed a \$2 Million repair and renovation in the fall of 2011. Closing the museum eliminates all justification for monies spent.
- Since opening in 2000, the NC Museum of Forestry, located in the heart of Whiteville the county seat, has become a crucial part of the community and an educational resource for one of the state's underserved regions.
- The Friends of the NC Museum of Forestry contracted with a professional exhibit design firm to develop a permanent exhibit, now is complete and a fundraising campaign to fabricate and implement the core exhibit, "Our Forest, Our Home," is underway.
CLOSING THE MUSEUM WOULD MAKE FUNDRAISING IMPOSSIBLE.
- The museum is valuable to the region's Travel and Tourism industry, bringing thousands of visitors from across the state, nation and indeed, world (China, Canada, Nigeria, Japan, France and Mexico) to the museum, boosting the local economy. The museum is one of the original participating sites for the Cape Fear Explorer Passport Program, encouraging visitors in a four county area to make Columbus County and the Cape Fear region a destination.
- The museum spends its budget primarily with community businesses providing added stimulus to the local economy.
- Four full and three part time positions eliminated will result in a loss of 101 years of combined museum expertise.
- The museum opened a gift shop in April, 2013 and a major membership kickoff campaign is planned for June 2013.

The NC Museum of Forestry Impact on the Region

- Over 500 groups have used the museum as a meeting place. Non-profit organizations, historical societies and civic groups rely on the museum as a monthly or bi-monthly meeting place. It has become a reliable fixture in the community.
- The museum grant for 'Teen Science Café' is contracted for school year 2013-2014.
- The museum is working closely with the regional school systems to enhance existing curriculum related programming.

- “The Forest Journey,” a traveling exhibit from the Franklin Institute, is contracted through December 2013.
- Grants from the Waccamaw Chapter of the American Foresters, International Paper and the Town and Country Garden Club are currently being used to develop an Urban Forest on museum grounds.
- The museum is part of ‘one campus’ with the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, the NC Nature Research Center and the Prairie Ridge Ecostation statewide educational initiatives.
- The museum supports organizations in the surrounding counties reaching thousands of families by participating in numerous outreach programs and events.
- The museum is a NC Environmental Education Center, providing experiential environmental education programs for the public and students of all ages. The NCAECC (North Carolina Association of Environmental Education Centers) plan to hold their annual meeting at the Museum of Forestry in March 2014.
- The museum provides a major event and numerous special events every year, provides speakers for regional organizations, and serves on local and statewide committees. The museum spearheads the effort to establish and maintain Whiteville, NC “Tree City USA” status from the National Arbor Day Foundation; has provided over 100,000 free trees for the general public; is an active member of the NC Forest Association and the Society of American Foresters.
- Friends of the NC Museum of Forestry invest in temporary exhibits for display, that bring new opportunities to the region for visitors to see, learn and participate in a unique one-of-a-kind experience.
- The museum shares the history of North Carolina forests and forestry with the southern NC region through the generous donation of artifacts from citizens across the southeast. The museum is able to preserve and protect history by caring for and storing these artifacts for future generations and explain to people

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