

News from the Forest

January 2026

Friends of the Cherokee National Forest
supports conservation, recreation, and stewardship across the forest.
From rivers and trails to cherished recreation areas and critical wildlife habitats.



A Message from the Executive Director

Nearly 30 years after attending my first American Forest Congress as a young forester, I found myself back in Washington, D.C., this time reflecting on how collaboration and stewardship continue to shape the future of our forests.

Read on for a personal look at how that experience came full circle.

Read More



Building Interdisciplinary Capacity for Forest Recovery and Stewardship

Friends of the Cherokee National Forest is working with the Forest Service to explore an interdisciplinary approach to supporting priority forest recovery and stewardship projects.



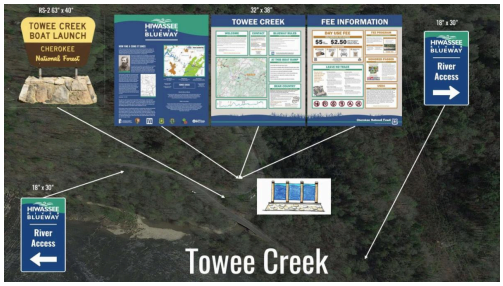
Stewarding Wildlife Openings and Beauty Spot Bald

What does it take to keep a mountain bald open, healthy, and welcoming for both wildlife and people? A new stewardship initiative is taking shape at Beauty Spot.

Read More

Read more for details as this project moves from planning toward action.

Read More

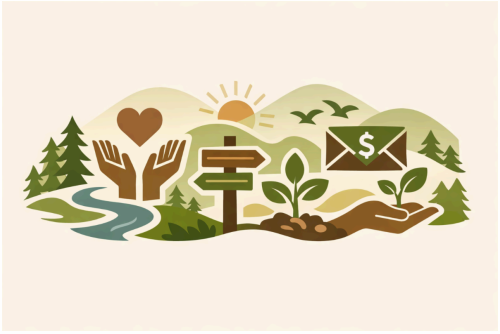


Phase Two Funding Secured for Hiwassee Blueway Signage

Support from the Lyndhurst Foundation is helping carry Blueway improvements forward, making the Hiwassee River more welcoming and accessible for visitors.

Read more to see how this support is helping move the Blueway forward.

Read More



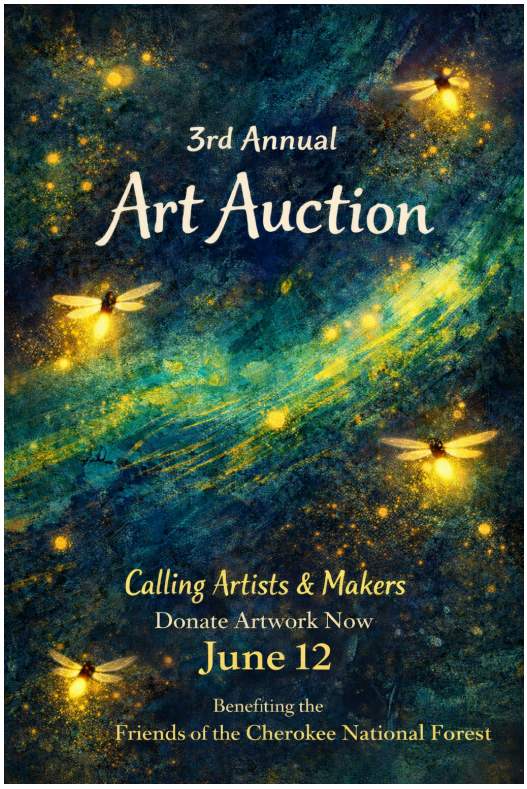
New Ways to Give

Friends of the Cherokee National Forest is expanding the ways individuals, businesses, and organizations can support conservation, recreation, and stewardship across the forest. From a new Business & Community Partners Program to the ability to donate appreciated stock, these options make it easier to give in ways that align with your values and goals.

Read more to learn how you can get involved and help care for the forest that sustains our communities.

Read More





Save the Date: Firefly Festival Returns to Greene County

The Firefly Festival is back for its third year, inviting the community to experience one of nature's most magical summer traditions. Mark your calendars for May 29–30 and June 5–6 and plan to join us for an unforgettable evening outdoors.

Registration for the festival will be managed through a lottery system, with lottery tickets going on sale February 23. Successful registrants will be permitted to bring one vehicle and as many people as can safely ride in that vehicle, making it easy to enjoy the experience with family and friends.

Watch for more detail on our Facebook page.

Call for Artists: Art Donations Wanted

Friends of the Cherokee National Forest is now accepting art donations for our 3rd Annual Art Auction, taking place Friday, June 12.

Inspired in part by the magic of fireflies and summer evenings in the forest—but open to all interpretations of nature, place, and wonder—we welcome artwork in a wide range of styles and mediums.

Proceeds from the auction support the mission of Friends of the Cherokee National Forest, helping care for special places and connect people to the Cherokee National Forest.

Artists are invited to join in a creative and fun way to support the Cherokee National Forest by donating artwork. If you'd like to be part of this community-driven event, contact Mark Healey at **mark@focnf.org**



DID YOU KNOW? (FUN FACTS)

The Forest That Helped Shape Modern Conservation

The Cherokee National Forest has long been shaped by people and communities and in turn, it helped shape modern conservation thinking.

Read on to get the whole story.

Read More

Visit Our Online Store



Looking for an easy way to support Friends of the Cherokee National Forest? Visit our online store for shirts, stickers, maps, and other forest-inspired items featuring artwork and designs created just for our supporters.

👉 **Shop online at www.focnf.org**

New items and updates are added regularly, so check back often.

Interested in Volunteering?

We are currently looking for help with the Eco Days event held at Indian Boundary recreation area, the week of May 11th. Email Mark Healey at mark@focnf.org and let us know of your interests.



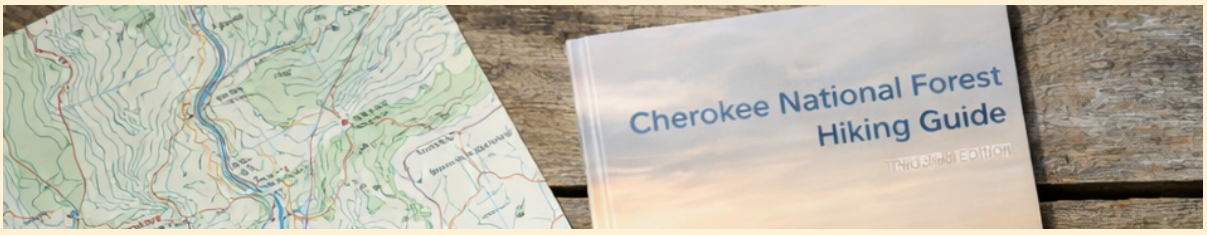
CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Our Circle of Friends reflects the individuals, businesses, and organizations who help make this work possible. Read more to see those who supported Friends of the Cherokee National Forest this season.

Read More

Donate Today at:

Become A Friend - Friends of the Cherokee National Forest



Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Try email & social marketing for free!