

Friends of Panthertown



Join us on the last Thursday of every month for volunteer work days. Thanks to Bald Rock and The Divide for adopting the Deep Gap Trail and thanks to all of our volunteers (there's too many to list) for their hard work in 2008.

The Friends of Panthertown have gotten a lot of exposure this summer; we were on UNCTV's "Weekend Getaway" program on June 19th, at Wilderness Wildlife Day on July 19th, at the Green Living Fair on August 2nd, and at Bamff Film Festival's "Radical Reels Tour" on September 30th.



The Friends received \$2,500 from the Chinquapin's Champions for Charity golf tournament on July 21st and 100 people attended our annual fundraiser on August 10th which raised over \$5,000. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 by the end of 2009 for conservation efforts in Panthertown with the help of our new promotional DVD. Fifty-four members have joined and remain committed to the Friends of Panthertown since 2005. Please renew your membership if you haven't already, or if you aren't a member yet, please consider joining this great stewardship group. An Adopt-a-Trail grant was awarded by DENR to build bulletin boards to replace the old ones at the Salt Rock Gap entrance & Cold Mountain entrance. Also, the Forest Service asked us to develop a

signage plan to decide where trails signs would be located and what information would appear on the carsonite signs.

Check out the Friends of Panthertown link on JMCA's website at www.j-mca.org. There's an online membership form, a calendar of events, and photo gallery. Coming in spring 2009 - guided hikes in Panthertown! Check our calendar of events for details...Anyone interested is welcome to attend monthly Friends of Panthertown Supervisory Board meetings, held on the first Tuesday from 3-5 at the Cashiers Library. Join Us! Help us maintain and protect this special place by becoming a member and volunteer.

Nina Elliott, Panthertown

Coordinator



News on Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

A big thank you to the **Cullasaja Womens Outreach** for awarding J-MCA a \$1,500 grant to be used toward revising and reprinting our Property Owners Guide to HWA and to continue our work to save hemlocks for the future. For a copy of our HWA brochure, visit our web-site at www.j-mca.org or contact our office.

J-MCA Executive Director Bates attended the **Saving Our Hemlocks from HWA event** on Sept. 18th with other professionals to discuss the current hemlock crisis and the pros and cons of the chemical treatment *Safari* which is under consideration for forest use and retail purchase. Currently only imidacloprid is available for landowner application. Also, Will Blozan introduced the documentary film in production called "*Our Vanishing Hemlocks*".



David M. Bates and Cynthia Strain receiving grant award

Time To Treat Your Trees

Please continue to treat your hemlocks, they are more valuable alive than dead. If you have any questions on treatment options, contact our office. The **Clemson Predator Beetle Rearing Laboratory** will be visiting our area this spring for more releases. A new release protocol is being implemented. Although we see our forest trees in rapid decline, there is still hope that the predators will curtail the infestation allowing resistant trees, and new seedlings, to re-establish. The lab estimated 10 years before we see results, which means we have 4 years to go!