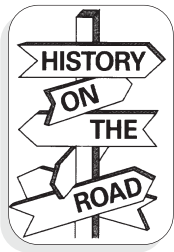


HISTORY ON THE ROAD

THE NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF FORESTRY



The N.C. Museum of Forestry celebrates, educates, and explores the state's forest from furniture to farming. Located in the small town of Whiteville, North Carolina (population estimated around 5,000), it is situated between the Atlantic Ocean and the Carolina sandhills. A satellite of the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, the museum evolved from a Columbus County grassroots effort started in the mid-1990s. Local people created a non-profit friends group, convinced lawmakers the state deserved a forestry museum, and proceeded to purchase the former 17,226 square foot Pioneer Savings and Loan building.

The building seemed suited to be converted into a museum. A spacious 20-foot high main gallery greets visitors when they walk through the glass double doors. Wood can be found throughout the building including handrails that wrap around

pourri of forest and wood-related material, much like the classic closets of curiosity from another century: strips of wood riddled with bullets from a lumber plant; a giant mural of the Roanoke River cypress swamp; turkey oak coasters; a turpentine orchard in the bank vault; a tool room featuring a massive two-man chain saw; over 30 large pieces of wood collected in the 1920s to show the variety of North Carolina trees; petrified wood estimated to be 65 million years old; a modern dugout canoe from Crusoe Island, prehistoric giant ground sloth bones found locally, and a sampling of "Goods From the Woods."

Traveling exhibits are common at the museum; most recently including the highly acclaimed award-winning photographs from the British National History

Museum's "Wildlife Photographer of the Year." Plans are underway to develop a core exhibit that reflects a comprehensive overview of North Carolina forests and forestry. With the first forestry school in the U.S. in western Carolina, the historic naval stores industry in the coastal plain, the famous furniture industry in the Piedmont, and the diversity of the Carolina forests, the museum will be a special place to learn and enjoy.

The Museum is open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday–Friday; Saturday 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; and Sunday 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is free. Please contact Harry Warren, Director, North Carolina Museum of Forestry, 415 South Madison Street, Whiteville, NC 28472, 910-914-4185, Harry.Warren@ncmail.net.



a winding staircase. The museum enjoys some unorthodox advantages, being a former bank, such as the working drive-through window. During the annual February 22nd "George Washington Birthday Pine Tree Give Away" residents pick up free pine tree seedlings without leaving their car.

The museum's core collection is a pot-

