

The History of Morrow Mountain State Park

With Jeff Michael

Sunday Oct. 20th 2pm-4pm



As Morrow Mountain State Park prepares to celebrate the 75th anniversary of its opening in 1939-40, the Friends of Morrow Mountain State Park has scheduled a public presentation on the history of the park, scheduled for October 20 at the Morrow Mountain Park Lodge.

Jeff Michael, director of UNC Charlotte's Urban Institute, will give a presentation on the cultural and natural history of Morrow Mountain State Park, and ongoing efforts to document that history for

future generations. Michael grew up in the shadow of Morrow Mountain in the Valley

Drive community, and over the years has been active with the Morrow Mountain State Park Advisory Committee and regional conservation efforts through The LandTrust for Central NC. A descendent of the Kirk family, one of the early pioneer families of the Morrow Mountain area, Michael has spent several decades hiking the trails of the state park with others knowledgeable of the park's rich heritage (many now deceased) and recording some of their stories associated with the park's numerous abandoned home sites, roadbeds and other cultural artifacts. Michael will give a visual tour of some of these places using maps and photos, and share some of the more memorable stories passed along to him over the years about one of Stanly County's earliest settlements. He will also talk about current efforts to document the park's history by the park's staff, the Friends of Morrow Mountain State Park, and volunteers such as himself.

