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A Walk in the Parks: Photographs from North Carolina State Parks

August 26, 2008, Raleigh, NC -- Beginning October 2, you can take a walk through North Carolina's state parks without leaving Raleigh. Chapel Hill's Niche Publishing LLC announces an exhibition of photographs at Lee Hansley Gallery at 225 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh from October 2-16.

The large format, limited edition giclee images were selected from photographs shot for Niche's recent book, *North Carolina State Parks: A Niche Guide*, distributed by Blair Publishing. The book's photographs were drawn from thousands of images shot by authors Ida Phillips and Bill Pendergraft, after years of work with North Carolina state parks. Additional images were produced by Jere Snyder of Raleigh.

The authors are no strangers to North Carolina's natural areas. Phillips is the author of *Duke Forest: A Resource for All Seasons* and *North Carolina Afield* and is a frequent contributor to *Wildlife in North Carolina*. Pendergraft wrote and produced the series *Wild, NC*, for North Carolina Public TV, a series on Coastal NC state parks, and has written and produced media for many NC state park visitor centers, a documentary about NC state parks, and media for the state's major natural history museums.

"We hope our photographs will encourage people to visit our wonderful state parks," Pendergraft said. "Photography can do many things and one is to elevate the importance of wild places, in a world that is becoming increasingly urban. Our state parks are becoming sanctuaries for our remaining plants and animals, and places where people can pause for reflection."

"With a growing population the need to protect North Carolina's wild places becomes more urgent every day," Phillips said. "We all need places to escape 'civilization' and reconnect with nature. Our state parks system continues to expand and we hope that our book and photographs will help raise awareness of these diverse places that range from the Gorges to the Dismal Swamp."

Following a special opening for NC state parks staff on Thursday, October 2nd, the gallery opening reception is scheduled for Sunday, October 5th, from 2-5 p.m. The authors will also sign books at the exhibition.

North Carolina State Parks: A Niche Guide is distributed by John F. Blair, Publisher and can be purchased for \$14.95 at www.blairpub.com, and in bookstores and online book retailers.

Photographs from the exhibition will be on sale at www.nichepress.com. Niche Publishing LLC is a partnership between Ida Phillips and Bill Pendergraft.

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