

Contact: ECO Office, 828-692-0385

### A NIGHTTIME WINTER SOLSTICE STROLL

To celebrate the winter solstice -- the longest night of the year -- ECO invites the community to join them (weather permitting) on a nighttime stroll on Tuesday, December 21, to Hooker Falls in DuPont State Forest from 7 to 9 p.m. Meet in the Hooker Falls parking lot on DuPont/Staton Road in DuPont State Forest.

We'll stroll along an old road bed one-fourth mile to the base of Hooker Falls. In the dark of night, we'll create soft light by shining our flashlights on the falls ... creating a quiet moment to celebrate the return of the sun to the northern hemisphere at the solstice, which is on December 21.

Bring a thermos of warm drink, for we'll toast the sun's return once we meander back to the parking lot. Bring a flashlight for use when necessary and wear clothing and shoes appropriate for a winter hike. **The event will be cancelled in case of inclement weather and that information will be included in ECO's recorded phone greeting. Since weather conditions affecting roads and trails will impact whether or not the hike is feasible, please check ECO's voice mail (828-692-0385) on Tuesday, December 21, before traveling to the site.**

The winter solstice stroll, sponsored by the Environmental and Conservation Organization (ECO), is open to the public of all ages at no charge. For more information, phone ECO at 828-692-0385 or visit the website at [www.eco-wnc.org](http://www.eco-wnc.org). Visit the DuPont State Forest website at [www.dupontforest.com](http://www.dupontforest.com) for directions to Hooker Falls parking lot.

Since 1987, ECO has been dedicated to clean air, clean water, recreation, and conserving and preserving the natural heritage of the mountain region.