SATURDAY MORNING FIELD TRIPS

Morning field trips will be organized at 8:00 A.M. for departure from the front lawn of the Spike Camp at Konnarock.

BIRDS — Join Dr. Steven Hopp, Emory and Henry College, and Marcia Davis, Knoxville, for sight and sound identification of birds. Right now is peak migration for song birds; we found over forty species each of the last two years. Don’t forget your binoculars!

WILDFLOWERS — A walk around the Elk Garden area to observe the conspicuous wildflowers, particularly the outstanding population of trout lilies, will be led by Dr. John Bond, Appalachian State University.

ALL-DAY HIKE TO THE TOP OF MT. ROGERS
Dr. Phil Shelton, Clinch Valley College, will include a detailed look at flora and fauna during this eight-mile trip to the top of Virginia’s highest peak. Participants should carry food and drink on this trip recommended for hardyhikers only.

EDIBLE AND MEDICAL PLANTS — Join Doug Ogle from Virginia Highlands Community College to learn little known facts about mountain plants. Doug also includes folklore and pioneer uses of plants.

SALAMANDER HUNT — Locating the salamanders is always fun! Abundant populations and species unique to Mt. Rogers make this field trip led by Dr. Gene Gourley, Radford University, and Dr. Jim Organ, City College of New York, particularly interesting.

FISHES OF MT. ROGERS AREA — Join Bob Wollitz, Supervising Fisheries Biologist with the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, for a field trip to Fox Creek (Fairwood Valley). Investigate stream sampling using an electro-shocker and learn about trout stream habitat improvement utilizing man-made structures.

WILDLIFE POPULATIONS AND HABITATS
John Baker, District Wildlife Biologist, and Keith Lawrence, Forester with the U.S. Forest Service, will demonstrate how planning and implementation of forest management techniques affect wildlife populations and habitats.

TROUT FISHING — “NATURE’S WAY” — A local fly-fishing expert, Danny Long of Virginia Highlands Community College will collect naturally occurring trout food such as may flies, caddis flies, and stone flies. Later the group will learn how to tie dry flies to mimic natural food. Danny will also demonstrate fly-casting techniques.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON FIELD TRIPS

Afternoon field trips will be organized at 1:30 P.M. for departure from the front lawn of the Spike Camp at Konnarock.

WILDFLOWER IDENTIFICATION — Lower elevation wildflowers will be the focus of this trip with Dr. Pat Mikesell, Radford University. What to look for, how to identify it and the use of common field guides are included in Dr. Mikesell’s discussion. This trip will be especially useful for beginners.

MOSS WALK — After a short introduction to mosses, liverworths, and lichens, Dr. David Breil, Longwood College, will examine various trails on or near Mount Rogers. A 10X hand lens will be useful for identification of these small plants.

MAMMALS — Small mammals such as shrews and voles are often missed by the casual observer. Join Dr. Wayne VanDervender and Dr. Matt Roe, both from Appalachian State University, as they check live traps for a closer look at some of these animals.

GEOLOGY — Tony Scales, Geologist, Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy, will examine outcrops showing evidence of pre-Cambrian glaciation and Cambrian clastic sedimentation. Tony will also pan for gold in Whitetop-Laurel Creek.

WILDFLOWER AND FERN WALK — Dr. Marcia Hicks, Appalachian State University, is leader of this field trip. Join Marie for an introduction to the early ferns and wildflowers of the Mt. Rogers area.

PLANT ECOLOGY — Consider the unique and different plant communities as you travel from lower elevations to higher elevations with Dr. Duncan Porter from VPI. Duncan will identify trees, shrubs, and wildflowers at selected sites.
THE NATURALIST RALLY

This year's Friday evening rally program will get underway at the Konnarock Community Center, located at the intersection of Virginia Route 600 and Route 603, northeast of Damascus in Washington County, Virginia.

The thirteenth annual naturalist event, known as the Mount Rogers Naturalist Rally, is sponsored again this year by the Mount Rogers Citizen Development Corporation and the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, Jefferson National Forest of the U. S. Forest Service.

Whether you are an experienced student naturalist, novice or just getting started, the rally committee welcomes you to this exciting weekend. Mount Rogers, along with sister peaks of Pine Mountain and Whitetop Mountain, form Virginia’s highest land masses with intermingled woods and pastures which have been extremely popular among naturalists for many years.

We hope you will enjoy your visit and learn much about the human and natural history of this beautiful area.

The 1988 Rally will be held May 8th & 9th, 1988.

PAST SPEAKERS

1977 Dr. Fred Alsop, III
East Tennessee State University
1978 Dr. Douglas Boyce
Emory and Henry College
1979 Dr. Aaron Sharp
University of Tennessee
1980 Dr. Charles Handley
Smithsonian Institute
1981 Dr. James Huheey
University of Maryland
1982 Dr. Warren Wagner
University of Michigan
1983 Dr. Ritchio Bell
University of North Carolina
1984 Dr. Tom Cade
Cornell University
1985 Dr. Carroll Perkins
Mississippi State University
1986 Dr. George Folkerts
Auburn University

SPRUCE-FIR FORESTS AND THEIR ECOLOGY

Dr. Peter White

About Our Speaker

Dr. Peter White’s most recent accomplishment is his appointment as Director of the North Carolina Botanical Garden and Associate Professor of Biology at UNC. He came to this position from the University of Tennessee where he headed the Cooperative Park Studies Unit and worked in the Graduate program in Ecology. His several years of experience as a research biologist at the Uplands Field Research Lab in the Great Smokies and a Ph.D. from Dartmouth securely prepared him for his current position.

Dr. White has contributed to many areas of scientific endeavor. He has researched vegetation mapping, wild hogs, land use history, fire fuels, behavior, rare and endangered plants, and most pertinent to our program, the composition structure, and dynamics of Spruce-fir forests. Dr. White has served on the National Acid Precipitation Program, NPS Technical Committee, and has done numerous biological assessments in our most treasured National Parks. He received the National Park Service Special Achievement Award two years running for his service. His scientific publications exceed sixty in number and have been published in a wide variety of journals and books. His educational achievements include teaching post-secondary classes at Antioch, Dartmouth, the Missouri Botanical Garden and the University of Tennessee including more than fifteen M.S. and Ph.D. candidates.

Our Friday evening program promises to be an exciting, current view of the Spruce-fir forests and their ecology.

1987 RALLY COMMITTEE

Chairman Sam Hambrick
Field Trip Coordinator Gail Turner
Registration Chair Genie Hambrick
Fred First Doug Oglesby
Larry Grimes Charlie Owens
Steve Hopp Roger Pedigo
Flint Hoge Bert Hale
David Henry John Baker
Ken Hale

FRIDAY’S AGENDA

5:00 P.M. — Registration at the Konnarock Community Center. All evening activities will be conducted in this building. Registration fee will be $2.50 for all persons twelve years of age or older.

7:00 P.M. — DINNER — Dinner served in the dining room of the Konnarock Community Center by members of the Konnarock Community Association. The price of the meal will be $5.00 per person and should be paid in advance reservation and registration.

8:00 P.M. — Dr. Peter White, Director of the North Carolina Botanical Garden, will be the featured speaker in the Konnarock Community Center.

SATURDAY’S AGENDA

7:00 A.M. — Continued registration for late arrivals and those who did not participate in the Friday evening activities. Registration will be conducted on the front porch of the Spike Camp building.

8:00 A.M. — All morning field trips will meet on the front lawn of the Spike Camp at Konnarock and depart for various areas of the Mount Rogers National Recreation area and other field sites.

11:30 A.M. — Morning field trips conclude. Lunch break. Pack your own or purchase it at one of the nearby stores.

1:30 P.M. — Afternoon field trips will meet on the lawn of the Spike Camp at Konnarock and depart for various areas. Registration will continue for those arriving for the afternoon trips and who have not previously paid. Trips conclude by 5:00 P.M.

All trips will be held regardless of weather conditions unless the safety of rally participants is endangered by the weather. Persons interested in field trip activities should consider the weather.

LODGING

Two U.S. Forest Service campgrounds are available near the Rally site. You may contact the Forest Service at (703) 783-5196 for more information. Motels are available in Chilhowie and Marion. You may contact the Chamber of Commerce of Smyth County at (703) 783-3161 for details.