SATURDAY MORNING FIELD TRIPS

8:00 a.m. Chestnut Trees and Blight
Dr. Fred Habard of the American Chestnut Foundation will lead a hike to examine the effect of different site conditions on chestnut trees.

8:00 a.m. Geology of Mt. Rogers NRA
Dan Manweller, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, invites you to explore the geology of the Mt. Rogers area. Bring a hand lens if you have one.

8:00 a.m. All-Day Hike To Mount Rogers
Dr. Phil Shelton, Clinch Valley College, will lead this popular trip for hardy hikers to the highest peak in Virginia and discuss the unique flora and fauna of the region. Bring food, water, and appropriate clothing for high-elevation weather.

8:00 a.m. Salamander Diversity
Join Dr. James Ord of Radford University in a fun-filled search for salamanders.

8:00 a.m. Bird Identification
Rev and Mrs. J. N. Howard of Marion and Carl Boone, Museum of the Middle Appalachians at Shadville, aid in the identification of local birds. Bring binoculars and a good field guide.

8:00 a.m. Birding the High Elevations
Join Dan Graybear, University of Delaware, in seeking out birds of the high elevations of MRNRA and discussing characteristics of these fragile habitats. Bring binoculars and a good field guide.

8:00 a.m. Fish Sampling
Bill Yetter, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will conduct an electrofishing demonstration on Fox Creek.

8:00 a.m. Flowers and Fungi
Join Pat Mikesell of Radford University and Bob Pohlad of Ferrum College as they look for lower elevation wildflowers, as well as fungi. Bring your field guides.

8:15 a.m. Stream Ecology
Dr. Karen McGrothing, Clarion University, offers an intensive look at stream macroinvertebrates and their roles as water quality indicators. Be prepared to get a little wet if you want to participate in collecting!

8:15 a.m. Salamander Hunt
Locating salamanders is always fun! Abundant populations and species unique to Mount Rogers make this field trip led by Dr. Gene Gourley of Radford University particularly interesting.

8:15 a.m. Aquatic Insects
Join Frank Taylor of Radford as he searches for aquatic insects in local streams. Bring your field guides and an extra pair of shoes (or boots).

8:15 a.m. Small Mammals of MRNRA
Kevin Hamed, Steele Creek Park, and Gary Buckles, Tennessee High School, lead you on a trip checking pre-set live traps in hopes of examining a small sample of the great mammal diversity of the region.

SATURDAY MORNING FIELD TRIPS

8:15 a.m. Birding in the Mount Rogers Area
Join Mike Evans, USFS, at the Konnarock Community Center. Mike plans to make stops along State Rt. 603 en route to Grandstone. Remember your field guides and binoculars.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON FIELD TRIPS

1:00 p.m. Edible & Herbal Uses of Plants
Carolyn Widner, V.P.I. will lead a hike to identify common plants and wildflowers and discuss their uses by Native Americans and early pioneers.

1:00 p.m. Flowers
Join Pat Mikesell of Radford University as he looks for lower elevation wildflowers, as well as fungi (if we have a wet spring). Bring your field guides.

1:00 p.m. Ecology of the High Mountains
Hugh Irwin, Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition, examines the relationships between plants and animals and their environment in the high elevations of MRNRA.

1:00 p.m. Fun With Nature For Young People
Ginny Small and Jean Terry pair up to lead youngsters on a nature adventure which is sure to be educational and fun.

1:00 p.m. High Elevation Ecology
Cecil Thomas, USFS wildlife biologist, will lead a trip from GISP to Rhododendron Gap discussing management of a high elevation ecology.

1:15 p.m. Mountain Weather, Climate and Elevation Measuring
Dan Graybear, University of Delaware, examines abiotic factors of mountain regions and current methods of measuring elevations. Expect to be enlightened about the diversity of wildlife in different zones.

1:15 p.m. Salamander Diversity
Marc Jackson, Bay's Mountain Park, will aid in the identification of the rich salamander diversity of MRNRA.

1:15 p.m. Wildflower Walk
Join John Keel of Radford University on a hike to identify spring wildflowers. Bring your field guides.

In Memory
It is with sadness that we note the death of Dr. David Breil, Longwood College, longtime supporter of the Mt. Roger's Naturalist Rally.
The Naturalist Rally

This year's rally will be held at the Konnarock Community Center located in Smyth County at the intersection of Virginia Route 600 and Route 603, northeast of Damascus, Virginia.

Welcome to the twenty-third annual Mount Rogers Naturalist Rally.

Regardless of your level of interest the rally has something to offer everyone.

Mount Rogers, along with sister peaks Pine Mountain and Whittetope Mountain, form Virginia's highest land masses. The intermingled woods and pastures have been extremely popular among naturalists of this beautiful area.

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

The 1998 Rally will be held May 8 and 9.

Field Trip Information

All field trips leave from the Konnarock Community Center unless otherwise indicated. Please note departure times and allow yourself extra time to register (if you have not already done so) and to sign up with field trip leader.

Times indicated are departure times. Trips will be conducted regardless of the weather. Be prepared in case of rain.

 Lodging

Two U.S. Forest Service campgrounds are available near the Rally site. You may contact the Forest Service at 540-783-5196 for more information. Motels are available at the Fox Hill Inn in Troutdale (540) 677-3313. You may contact the Chamber of Commerce in Smyth County at 340-783-3161 for details.

Dr. Jerry N. McDonald

Dr. McDonald's Friday evening presentation is titled "25,000 Years of Middle Appalachian Environmental History: The View from Saltville."

This presentation will review the major environmental stages and changes that have characterized the Middle Appalachian Region during the past 25,000 years, with particular emphasis on the past 15,000 years as revealed by evidence from Saltville Valley, one of the prime late-Quaternary paleontological sites in eastern North America.

Dr. McDonald was educated at Muskingum College, New Concord, Ohio (BA in Geography, 1970), The University of Texas at Austin (MA in Geography, 1972), and UCLA (PhD in Geography, 1978). His dissertation, The North American Bison: Their Classification and Evolution, was published by the University of California Press in 1981. Dr. McDonald has taught at the University of Texas at El Paso, Radford University and was Adjunct Professor at Virginia Tech. He was awarded a post-doctoral fellowship in the Department of Paleobiology, National Museum of Natural History.

Dr. McDonald is Research Associate at the Department of Paleobiology, National Museum of Natural History and Virginia Museum of Natural History. He has been conducting research at Saltville since 1980.

Currently Dr. McDonald is president and publisher of the McDonald & Woodward Publishing Company, Blacksburg, Va., and President of the Board of Trustees of the Saltville Foundation, sponsor of the Museum of the Middle Appalachians, Saltville, Va.

1997 Rally Committee

Chairman .................................................. Sam Hambrick
Field Trip Coordinator ............................... Greg McConnell/Pat Miksect
Registration ................................................... Carrie Sparks
Treasurer .................................................... Marge Pedigo
Secretary ...................................................... Sharon Hayden
John Baker • Lew Parcell • Bob Mclnnis
Carolyn Widner • Paul Clements • Marjorie Day • Louise Tibbon

Past Speakers

1977 Dr. Fred Alsop, III, East Tennessee State University
1978 Dr. Douglas Boyce, Emory & Henry College
1979 Dr. Aaron Sharp, University of Tennessee
1980 Dr. Charles Handley, Smithsonian Institute
1981 Dr. James Huhney, University of Maryland
1982 Dr. Warren Wagner, University of Michigan
1983 Dr. Ritchie Bell, University of North Carolina
1984 Dr. Tom Cade, Cornell University
1985 Dr. Carroll Parkins, Mississippi State University
1986 Dr. George Folkerts, Auburn University
1987 Dr. Peter White, University of North Carolina
1988 Michael R. Pelton, University of Tennessee
1989 Doug Ogle, Virginia Highlands Community College
1990 Annamarie Greyman-van Dornenburg
Royal Dutch Society for Natural History
1991 Dr. Phil Shelton
Clinch Valley College/University of Virginia
1992 Dr. Russ Greenberg
Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C.
1993 Dr. Fred Alsop, East Tennessee State University
1994 Tom Dierdorff, Virginia Department of Forestry
1995 Bill Kittrell, The Nature Conservancy
1996 James Organ, Professor Emeritus, City College of New York

FRIDAY, 9 MAY 1997

5:00 p.m. Registration Begins - Konnarock Community Center- Fee is $5.00 for all persons twelve years of age or older. Please register in advance using the attached form if at all possible.

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Dinner - Konnarock Community Center It is necessary to make dinner reservations. The cost is $6.50 per person and should be paid in advance. Dinner will be served from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. The main course for the meal will be fried chicken.

7:30 p.m. Area Ranger, Steve Sherwood welcomes naturalists to Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. Field trip leaders introduced.

8:00 p.m. Featured Speaker - Konnarock Community Center - Dr. Jerry N. McDonald.

Immediately Following the Speaker - Stargazing - Several members of the Bays Mountain Astronomy Club will have telescopes set up in the field below the parking lot. Don't miss this opportunity to view faraway galaxies, nebulae, planets and the stars. Comet Hale-Bopp should also be visible in the evening sky.

SaturdaY, 10 MAY 1997

* NEW * Saturday Morning. Country breakfast served cafeteria style by Konnarock Community Association. (Cost depends on items selected)

7:00 a.m. Continued Registration - Anyone who has not registered is encouraged to do so at the Konnarock Community Center.

8:00-8:15 a.m. Morning Field Trips Depart from Konnarock Community Center - See listing for trips and time of departure information.

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch Break - Pack your own or purchase at one of the nearby stores.

1:00 p.m. Afternoon Field Trips Depart from Konnarock Community Center - See listing for individual trips and departure times. Any afternoon participants who are not registered should do so.

5:00 p.m. Conclusion of Field Trips