SATURDAY MORNING FIELD TRIPS

8:00 a.m. Geology of Mt. Rogers NRA
Jim Lovett, 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, including gloves and hat, for cold high-elevation weather.

8:00 a.m. Bird Identification
Dr. Tom Laughlin, Emory & Henry College, and Michael Welsh and Rachel Ridall, ETSU aid in the identification of local birds. Bring binoculars and a good field guide.

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

8:00 Birding the High Elevations
Join Dan Graybeal, 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. Stream Ecology
Dr. Karen McGlothlin, University of the South, 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. Small Mammals of MRNRA
Kevin Hamed, Saddle Creek Park, and Jason Blevins, Emory & Henry College, 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.

8:15 a.m. Going on a Bear Hunt
A new trip for children with Freda Zachary. Come learn how natural things combine to make our environment usable - how we affect it and how we can help it.

8:15 a.m. Wildflower Identification
Join Pat Mikesell of Radford University on a lower elevation wildflower walk.

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 Gunter of Radford University particularly interesting.

8:15 a.m. Birding
Join Dr. Bob Sheehy from Radford University for sight and sound identification of resident and migratory birds. Don't forget your binoculars and field guides.

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. 605 en route to Grindstone. Remember your field guides and binoculars.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON FIELD TRIPS

1:00 p.m. High Elevation Ecology
Cecil Thomas, USFS wildlife biologist, will lead a trip from G11SP to Rhododendron Gap discussing management of a high elevation ecology.

1:00 p.m. Wildflower Walk
Join Butch Kelly from the Blue Ridge Wildflower Society on a hike to identify spring wildflowers. Bring your field guide.

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

1:15 p.m. Mountain Weather, Climate and Elevation Measuring
Dan Graybeal, 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 Edible and Herbal Uses of Plants
Tim Phillips, Hungry Mother State Park, will lead a hike to identify some common plants and wildflowers and discuss their many uses.

1:15 p.m. Wildlife Populations and Habitats
Alan Boynton District Wildlife Biologist, and Keith Lawrence, Forest with the U.S. Forest Service, will demonstrate how planning and implementation of forest management techniques affect wildlife populations and habitats.
Welcome to the twenty-fourth 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 Whitemountain, 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 1999 Rally will be held May 7 and 8.

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 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 540-783-3161 for details.

1998 RALLY COMMITTEE

Chairman ........................................ Greg McConnell
Field Trip Coordinator ...................... Pat Mikesell
Registration .................................. Carrie Sparks
Treasurer ...................................... Marge Pedigo

John Baker, Lew Purcell, Steve Sherwood, Bob McKinney, Sam Hambrock, Louise Tilton, Sharon Hayden

PAST SPEAKERS

1977 ............... Dr. Fred Alsp, 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 Hubeey, 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 Parks, 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 ............... Annmarie Steenman-van Diepenbeek, 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 Alsp, East Tennessee State University
1994 ............... Tom Dierau, Virginia Department of Forestry
1995 ............... Bill Kirttrell, The Nature Conservancy
1996 ............... James Organ, Professor Emeritus, City College of New York
1997 ............... Dr. Jerry McDonald, National Museum of Natural History

FRIDAY, 8 MAY 1998

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 $7.50 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. USFS, Steve Sherwood welcomes naturalists to Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. Field trip leaders introduced.

8:00 p.m. Featured Speaker - Konnarock Community Center - Scott Weidensaul

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, nebula, planets and the stars.

SATURDAY, 9 MAY 1998

Country Breakfast Buffet Saturday Morning served cafeteria style by Konnarock Community Association. (Cost $5.50)

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.