SATURDAY MORNING FIELD TRIPS

8:00 a.m. Panthers
According to Chris Bolgiano, author and researcher, the southern Appalachians offer exceptional habitat for cougars. Come along as Chris searches for signs of cougar presence in the Mount Rogers area.

8:00 a.m. Tree ID and Appreciation
Join Larry Wilhite, retired USFS, on a tree appreciation hike in the area.

8:00 a.m. Wet Stone Branch Hike on Rogers Ridge
Join Tom Davenport in this “hot spot” for spring riparian vegetation. Trail leads to a bald, 4 mi. round trip. Moderate to strenuous. Bring water and snack.

8:00 a.m. Salamander Diversity Trip
Jim and Della Organ have researched salamanders in the Mount Rogers area since the 1950’s. Learn why salamanders in the MRNRA maintain the highest species diversity in the Southern Appalachians.

8:00 a.m. Botany/Wildflowers
Join Kevin Caldwell, a botanist and environmental consultant, for a delightful botany/wildflower excursion.

8:00 a.m. Bird Identification
Bring binoculars and field guides on this popular field trip for identifying local birds. Allen Trently, East Tennessee State University, and Dr. Tom Laughlin, Radford University, will be your guides.

8:00 a.m. Hike to Mount Rogers
Dr. Phil Shelton, UVA at Wise, will lead 10 hardy hikers on an all-day trek to the top of Mount Rogers. This is a moderately strenuous hike. Participants should bring along warm clothes, water, and a midday snack.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON FIELD TRIPS

1:00 p.m. Geology Along the Virginia Creeper Trail
Jon Tso from Radford University will take you on a walk along the Virginia Creeper trail and describe the ancient past as told in the rocks.

1:00 p.m. Wildflower Identification
Dr. Pat Mikesell from Radford University will lead you on a lower-elevation wildflower walk at Grindstone Campground. Bring along field guides.

1:00 p.m. Edible and Herbal Uses of Plants
Tim Phillips will lead this walk to find and identify plants and wildflowers and discuss their many uses. The community center fencerows provide an abundant plant habitat for this trip. Bring a hand lens.

1:00 p.m. Appalachian Woodland Wildflowers
Become acquainted with the spring flora as Claude Greever leads an easy walk in both the lower and higher elevations.

1:00 p.m. Salamanders
Searching for salamanders is always fun! Abundant populations and species unique to MRNRA make this field trip led by Heather McDonald, East Tennessee State University, one of our most popular field trips.

1:00 p.m. Forest Succession and Wildlife
Join Allen Boynton, wildlife biologist, for a field review of natural and man-caused disturbances to area forests and the effects on wildlife populations.
**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-seventh 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 Whitetop Mountain, form Virginia's highest land masses. The intermingled woods and pastures have been extremely popular among naturalists.

We hope you will enjoy your visit and learn much about the natural history.

The 2002 Rally will be held May 10 and 11.

**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. Accommodations are available at the Fox Hill Inn in Troutdale at (540) 677-3313, (800) 874-3313 or e-mail http://www.bbonline.com/va/foxhill

You may contact the Chamber of Commerce in Smyth County at (540) 783-3161 for details.

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**Chris Bolgiano**

Chris Bolgiano was born in Munich, Germany. She received a B.A. in History from the University of Maryland in 1970. Since then she has held a variety of positions at James Madison University. Presently Ms. Bolgiano holds an adjunct professorship at JMU and serves as rare-books-and-manuscripts librarian. She gave up full-time work at the University to become, in her words, "a starving freelance writer". She has participated in a variety of environmental organizations and currently serves as Wildlife Issues Chair for the Sierra Club, and is Vice-President of the Virginia Wilderness Committee.

A noted author, Chris Bolgiano published *Mountain Lion: An Unnatural History of Pumas and People*, Stackpole Books, in 1995. Noting "dramatic developments in the eastern cougar story in the 1990s", Chris will present a Friday evening program titled *Science, Skepticism, and Scat: Eastern Cougar Myths and Realities*. The presentation will explore the biology of cougars, the history of cougar-human interactions, and issues related to cougar presence in the east, specifically the southern Appalachians.

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**2001 RALLY COMMITTEE**

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

John Baker • Beth Merz • Paul Brown • Bob McKinney •
Sam Hardwick • Louise Tilton • Sharon Hayden

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**PAST SPEAKERS**

1977 ................................ Dr. Fred Alspach, III, East Tennessee State University
1978 ................................ Dr. Douglas Boyer, Emory & Henry College
1979 ................................ Dr. Aaron Sharp, University of Tennessee
1980 ................................ Dr. Charles Handley, Smithsonian Institute
1981 ................................ Dr. James Howey, University of Maryland
1982 ................................ Dr. Warren Wagner, University of Michigan
1983 ................................ Dr. Ritchie Bell, University of North Carolina
1984 ................................ Dr. Torn Cade, Cornell University
1985 ................................ Dr. Carroll Perkins, Mississippi State University
1986 ................................ Dr. George Follett, 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 ................................ Annemarie Stormann-van Deventer
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 Alspach, East Tennessee State University
1994 ................................ Tom Dierauf, Virginia Department of Forestry
1995 ................................ Bill Kimball, The Nature Conservancy
1996 ................................ James Organ, Professor Emeritus, City College of New York
1997 ................................ Jerry McDonald, National Museum of Natural History
1998 ................................ Scott Weidemuller, National History Author
1999 ................................ Richard L. Hoffman, VA, Museum of Natural History
2000 ................................ Leonard Adkins, A.T. National Heritage

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**FRIDAY, 11 MAY 2001**

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, Beth Merz welcomes naturalists to Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. Field trip leaders introduced.

8:00 p.m. Featured Speaker - Konnarock Community Center - Chris Bolgiano

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**SATURDAY, 12 MAY 2001**

Country Breakfast with homemade biscuits Saturday Morning served by Konnarock Community Association.

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 - Bring your own, or purchase your lunch at the Community Center, where homemade soup, sandwiches and drinks will be served.

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.