SATURDAY MORNING FIELD TRIPS

8:00 a.m. All Day Hike to Mt. Rogers
Dr. Phil Shelton, UVA at Wise, will lead 10 hardy hikers on an all-day trek to the top of Mt. Rogers. 8 miles round trip- moderately strenuous- wear warm clothes, bring water and lunch.

8:00 a.m. All Day - High Country Loop
Dick Moose, Virginia Tech., USFS volunteer at Mt. Rogers NRA, will lead this 12 mile moderate (1 mile strenuous) hike from Fox Creek through Lewis Fork Wilburn Ridge, past the scales, and back to Fox Creek. Wear warm clothes, bring water and lunch.

8:00 a.m. Bird Identification
J.N. and Ella Howard will lead this spring walk in the woods for identification of local birds. Bring binoculars and field guides.

8:00 a.m. Wildflower Pollination
Join Don Holt from Steele Creek Park on this hike for a different look at wildflowers.

8:00 a.m. Appalachian Trail Hike
Tom Davenport will lead this hike from Fox Creek Trail head to Old Orchard Shelter to discuss interesting facts about the AT through our area. Round trip 3.5 miles - Bring water and snack.

8:00 a.m. Tree identification and Appreciation
Larry Wilhite, retired USFS, will lead this hike starting in lower elevation, then drive to Elk Garden Gap for trees in higher elevation.

8:00 a.m. Salamander Diversity-Jim & 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. Birding - Dr. Tom Laughlin, Radford University, will help you identify birds of the MRNRA. Bring binoculars and field guides.

8:15 a.m. Small Mammals of MRNRA
Kevin Hamed, Naturalist at Steele Creek Park, will lead this trip, checking pre-set live traps in hopes of examining a sample of the mammal diversity in this area.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON FIELD TRIPS

1:00 p.m. Photographing Nature
Learn Techniques for capturing the wonders of nature on film. Bring your cameras and a tripod with you if you’ve got them. Instructor Bob McKinney has published photographs in major sporting magazines, as well as Virginia Wildlife and Blue Ridge Country. Limit of 12 participants.

1:00 p.m. Appalachi an Woodland Wildflowers-
Become acquainted with the spring flora as Claude Greever leads an easy walk in both lower and higher elevations. Field guides and hand lens helpful.

1:00 p.m. Geology-
Steve Nicely, Radford University, is studying geology along The Virginia Creeper Trail and will share that information.

1:00 p.m. Wildflowers-
The nature trail at Grindstone Campground offers an abundance of wildflowers. Join Dr. Pat Mikesell of Radford University and Butch Kelley from the Blue Ridge Wildflower Society, on this leisurely hike. Bring field guides.

1:00 p.m. VA. Creeper Trail Hike-
Ed Morgan, co-author of “The Virginia Creeper Trail Companion”, will lead a walk in the Creek Junction area, discussing the wildlife of the area, as well as the history and construction of The Virginia Creeper Trail.

1:00 p.m. Insects-Join Dan Callahan on a trip to find and identify insects in our mountain region. Bring a hand lens if you have one.

1:00 p.m. Salamanders- Abundant populations and species unique to MRNRA make this trip led by Heather McDonald very interesting.
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 eighth 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 2003 Rally will be held May 9 and 10.

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 276-783-5196 for more information.

Accommodations are available at the Fox Hill Inn in Troutdale at (276) 677-3313, check their website at: http://www.bbonline.com/va/foxhill. You may contact the Chamber of Commerce in Smyth County at (276) 783-3161 for details on lodging.

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2002
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 - Doug Ogle

SATURDAY, 12 MAY 2001
BREAKFAST WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE
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.