**Saturday Morning Guides and Field Trips**

**Birding**
- Allen Boynton, Wildlife Manager with the VDGIF (and with BRDC), will conduct bird watching at Grindstone and the Homestead Road section of Fairwood Valley. Notable birds expected: least flycatcher, rose-breasted grosbeak, veery, wood thrush, a variety of wood warblers and vireos.

**Fly tying**
- Ernie Barker will conduct a basic fly tying course in the community center towards the kitchen area, as a representative of the Mountain Empire Chapter of Trout Unlimited. There is a $5.00 registration fee to cover the cost of materials for the 4-6 flies that will be tied.

**Salamanders**
- Kevin Harms, Associate Professor of Biology, Virginia Highlands Community College, Abingdon, will lead his popular morning salamander walk. We will explore the Elk Garden Trail sampling at least two different habitat types which have different salamander communities.

**All Day Hike to Top of Mount Rogers**
- Phil Shelton, Emeritus Professor of Biology at UVA College at Wise, leads this nine mile round trip to Virginia's highest point. Natural history, including geology, climate, plants, animals and cultural history will be discussed. Sturdy shoes, dress for high altitude weather, food and water are necessary. (Reservations, please.)

**50th Anniversary of Wilderness Act**
- MRNRA Ranger Beth Merz will share the history of wilderness management on federal lands since the 1964 Wilderness Act, and lead short walks into two of the designated Wilderness Areas in Mount Rogers NRA. Limit of 9 participants, must pre-register.

**Geology Walk**
- Arthur Merschat, USGS, will begin at the parking lot on Whitetop and hike down the ridge to Buzzard Rock. We will discuss the geologic history of Whitemountain, Mount Rogers, the Blue Ridge and Appalachian Mountains, and possibly Elk Garden. This trip is limited to 15.

**Mammals of Mount Rogers**
- Karen Powers, PhD, Radford University, will check several hundred pre-set live traps in the woods near the community center and on Mount Rogers Trail in hope of examining a sample of the small mammal diversity of the MRNRA.

**Northern flying squirrels**
- Jay Martin, Mount Rogers NRA Wildlife Biologist, will lead a hike through the highest elevation spruce habitat of the endangered Carolina northern flying squirrel. During the hike, we will discuss habitat needs of this species as well as conservation efforts that are being conducted on the NRA.

**Mushrooms**
- Join Ken Crouse, member of NAMA and past president of Blue Ridge Mushroom Club, on a high elevation fungi foray! While on our search we'll discuss the vital role fungi play in the overall health of the forest ecosystem.

**Saturday Afternoon Guides and Field Trips**

**Geology**
- Join Fred Newcomb, (with BRDC, and science teacher at Marion HS), on a one-mile walk through a remarkable sequence of rocks that spans nearly a billion years of Earth's history and that tells a story of volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and the breakup of a supercontinent.

**Troutdale Cultural History**
- Join Ed Clayton, U.S. Forest Service Volunteer and history aficionado to learn about Troutdale from its founding to the present, including the railroad, churches, the bank, VA's first female mayor, writer Sherwood Anderson, and more. Several Troutdale residents may join us to share stories.

**Wildflowers**
- Wildflower walk (afternoon): Eleanor Grasselli and Carrie Sparks of the MRATC will co-lead a 2.5-mile stroll past wildflowers from Whitetop Mountain north on the AT, downhill to Elk Garden. Please bring an extra layer of clothing, rain gear, water, snack and camera.

**Violets**
- Join John G. Kell, Radford University, will identify species of violets using the key from the new Flora of Virginia. Bring a hand lens. 1 will provide copies of the key to violets. We will start at the community center and then head over to Grindstone.

**Aquatic Wildlife Conservation Center Tour**
- Join Megan Bradley, biologist with the VDGIF, at the Bulter Hatchery on the banks of the South Fork Holston River. See how the VDGIF is recovering rare freshwater mussels, the Eastern hellbender, and the spiny river snail. Limit 20 participants, must provide their own transportation.

**Trout Fishing**
- Join Justin Laughlin, METU volunteer leader, for fly casting, matching fly hatches, and identification of aquatic insects on Whitetop Laurel Creek. Participants should bring waders, fishing equipment, and appropriate state & federal licenses. If you participated in the morning fly-tying workshop, bring those flies. Limit 20 participants.

**Birding**
- Aaron Floyd (with BRDC) will lead the search for birds on Whitetop Mountain. Target birds include: Red-breasted nuthatch, veery, black-throated green warbler, Blackburnian warbler, chestnut-sided warblers, blue-headed vireo, black-capped chickadee and northern saw-whet owl.

**Appalachian Wildflower Walk**
- Claude Greener, rally icon, will lead this popular wildflower hike around the nature trail at Grindstone and then drive up to Elk Garden to join Carrie and Eleanor for some higher elevation blooms.

**Kid Activities**
- All about bears children program: Roald and Ellie Kirby welcome kids of all ages to explore the world of black bears. Ellie will help participants draw pictures of bears. Roald will tell bear tales and lead the group on a bear hunt.
THE 40TH ANNUAL MOUNT ROGERS NATURALIST RALLY

The rally will be based out of the Konnarock Community Center. It is located in Konnarock, Virginia, on VA 600 just about 1/2 mile south of the intersection of VA 600 and VA 603. Thank you for your interest in the Mount Rogers Naturalist Rally. We've assembled a wide variety of excellent field trips with leaders who are experts in their field and who are able to make it understandable and interesting for everyone from inquisitive amateurs to accomplished naturalists.

The Mount Rogers area, which includes Virginia's three tallest peaks, has long fascinated scholars and explorers. Not only is there a wide variation in altitude within a short distance (Damascus is 2,000 above mean sea level; the summit of Mount Rogers is 5,729), there are many different ecosystems and micro-ecosystems within a short drive or hike of each other. In addition, there are many interesting overlaps between the extreme ranges of "southern" and "northern" species of plants, animals, and folks.

All field trips leave from the parking lot of the Konnarock Community Center unless otherwise indicated or announced on Friday evening. All times listed are actual departure times. Please allow extra time if you still need to register and to sign up with the field trip leader. (Some leaders take sign-ups on Friday evening and some trips fill quickly.) All trips will go out regardless of weather conditions! Some prepared with good boots or shoes, and sweater or jacket, and a raincoat or poncho.

FRIDAY NIGHT SPEAKER

Introduction to Native Bees and Other "Beneficial" Arthropods of the Mid-Atlantic

Nancy Lee Adamson
PhD, Pollinator Conservation Specialist - East Region, The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

Join us to learn about common native bees we can support by protecting and planting pollinator habitat. The program will highlight nesting habits of some of the 500 species of native bees in Virginia, as well as other pollinators, predators, and parasitoids that benefit from pollinator habitat.

FRIDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

Roald and Ellie Kirby will be bringing in the evening with some traditional old time tunes.

DOOR PRIZE!

David Richert has offered a free afternoon consultation on forest management as the friday night door prize.

PAST SPEAKERS

Karen E. Francl, Radford University..........................2013
Mike Hayslett, Sweet Briar College..........................2012
Doug Ogle, VHCC.......................................................2011
Kevin Hamed, VHCC.....................................................2010
Dr. Theresa Dellinger, Virginia Tech..........................2009
Dr. Steven Hopp, Emory & Henry..........................2008
Mike Finder, VDGIF.......................................................2007
Dr. Fred Hebard, TACF..................................................2006
J. Wallace Coffey, Bristol Bird Club..........................2005
Dr. Phil Shelton, UVA Wise..........................................2004

While attending any part of the Mount Rogers Naturalist Rally you must take full responsibility for your own health and well-being, and deciding if participating in a planned activity will be safe for you.

The Mount Rogers Naturalist Rally Committee nor Blue Ridge Discovery Center will not be responsible for accident, injury or damage to personal property.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, MAY 9

5:00 PM: Registration begins, Konnarock Community Center. Fee is $8 for each person 16 or older. Advance registration using the form on this brochure would be greatly appreciated!

5:30-6:30 PM: Chicken supper prepared and served by the Konnarock Community Association at the Konnarock Community Center. Prepaid reservations for supper are absolutely necessary. Tickets for the dinner will be limited to 150 so make sure you reserve early. The cost is $13.50 per plate.

6:45 PM: Welcome, introductions of field trip leaders, last-minute announcements.

7:30 PM: Featured speaker: Nancy Lee Adamson

SATURDAY, MAY 10

7:00 AM: Continuing registration. Anyone who has not registered should do so.

8:00 AM: Morning field trips. Sign up will be on the building for the field trips, so meet at the one you are interested in.

11:30 AM: Lunch break (hot dogs and drinks are $2.00, available at the center or bring your own.)

1:00 PM: Afternoon field trips

LODGING

Two US Forest Service campgrounds - Grindstone and Beartree - are within 10 miles of Konnarock. For information or to reserve a site, call 1-877-444-6777 or go online at www.ReserveUSA.com. There are numerous bed & breakfast inns and rental cabins in the area. Motels are available in Damascus, Abingdon, Glade Spring, Chilhowie, Marion, West Jefferson and Mountain City. Visit www.virginiabirdsociety.org for more information and suggestions.

2014 RALLY COMMITTEE

Carrie Sparks, Beth Merz, Mike Nichols, Brandi Nichols, Deborah Partridge, along with the following members of Blue Ridge Discovery Center: Scott Jackson-Ricketts, Allen Boynton, William Roberts, Sarah Osborne, Aaron Floyd, Roald Kirby and Clyde Kessler. Blue Ridge Discovery Center shares the leadership role in helping present the rally.

For more information visit:
www.mountrogersnaturalistrally.org
www.facebook.com/MountRogersNaturalistRally