

Monday, December 4, 2017

Pre-conference field trips

Musgrove Mill State Historic Site- Battlefield Trail Guided Hike

Learn why the South Carolina Backcountry was so important to the outcome of the American Revolutionary War on this leg of the fieldtrip. We will stop at a few places including park highlights such as Horseshoe Falls, the remains of the Colonial roadbed used by both British and American forces during the battle, and a portion of the battle ridge where the fighting took place.

Considered easy to moderate, the hike is 1 ½ miles through the winter piedmont woods with changes in elevation. Following the hike, participants will ride the van to the Visitor Center and gift shop.

Rose Hill Plantation State Historic Site

Tour the plantation of South Carolina's former secession governor, William H. Gist. The trip will include a guided exploration of the 19th-century mansion and grounds, as well as a discussion about how new research can be used to incorporate the topics of slavery, archaeology, Reconstruction and environmental history into interpretation.

Drive Time: One hour and fifteen minutes, one-way

Departure Time: 9am **Return Time:** 5pm

Bring: Comfortable clothing, adequate walking shoes and a camera are recommended.

Cost: \$25 **Trip Limit:** 24 people

Lunch: Southern Buffet Lunch at Midway BBQ (midwaybbq.com)

Website: southcarolinaparks.com/rosehill and southcarolinaparks.com/musgrovemill

Rainbow Falls Hike at Jones Gap State Park

Take a hike in one of the most beautiful mountain valleys in South Carolina and the Blue Ridge Escarpment and be rewarded by Rainbow Falls, a 100-foot waterfall. The moderately strenuous hike is approximately 2.1 miles one-way and follows the Middle Saluda River from Jones Gap State Park to Rainbow Falls. Interpretive Ranger, Tim Lee, will guide along the route, and interpret the ecology and history of the 12,000-acre Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area.

Drive Time: One hour, one-way

Departure Time: 8:30am **Return Time:** 3pm

Bring: Comfortable clothing, adequate hiking boots or shoes, and a camera

Cost: \$25 **Trip Limit:** 12 people

Lunch: Box lunch

Website: southcarolinaparks.com/jonesgap

Lake Jocassee Boat Trip at Devils Fork State Park

Enjoy a relaxing pontoon boat ride on beautiful Lake Jocassee, a 7,500-acre, clear water reservoir surrounded by unspoiled natural mountains and breathtaking scenery. We will travel to some of the waterfalls that flow into the lake, and see why the undeveloped area encompassing Lake Jocassee is one of *National Geographic's* "50 of the World's Last Great Places". You will learn the lore of Jumping-Off Rock, visit the place where the final scene in the movie *Deliverance* was filmed, and learn about the remaining structures beneath Lake Jocassee. We will cruise around the lake and enjoy lunch at a scenic picnic spot. This trip is dependent on lake conditions - participants will be called 24 hours in advance in case of cancellation.

Drive Time: One hour and fifteen minutes, one way

Departure Time: 9am **Return Time:** 4:30pm

Bring: Dress in layers as it can be very cold on the lake in early December. A hat, sunglasses, camera, and binoculars are recommended.

Lunch: Box lunch

Cost: \$75 **Trip Limit:** 10 people

Website: southcarolinaparks.com/devilsfork

Oconee Station State Historic Site

Oconee Station was established as a military border post in 1792 during a period of tensions between the Americans and Creek Indians. The site was garrisoned by the South Carolina State Militia from 1792 until 1799. The stone blockhouse is all that remains of the 18th-century fort. By 1795, Oconee Station was also serving as an Indian trading post. In 1805, this two-story brick house was built for William Richards, the merchant who ran the trading post at Oconee Station. Scott Alexander, the park interpreter, will give a guided tour of the site and interpret the State Militia garrisoned at Oconee Station in the 1790s. There will be a black powder demonstration and a primitive fire starting demonstration. The group will also hike to Station Cove Falls, an easy, one-mile trail (one-way).

Drive Time: One hour, one-way

Departure Time: 9am **Return Time:** 4pm

Bring: Dress in layers as it can be cold or warm in early December. Comfortable clothing, adequate hiking boots or shoes, and a camera.

Cost: \$25 **Trip Limit:** 12 people

Lunch: Box lunch

Website: southcarolinaparks.com/oconeestation

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Musgrove Mill State Historic Site

We will start at the Visitor Center for an overview of the battle, and then go outside for a hike of the British Camp trail. The British Camp Trail interprets the backcountry home of the Musgrove family, the British Encampment at Musgrove, 18th-century travel, trade, and commerce at the former site of the grist mill. This is an easy 1-mile hike that runs along the scenic Enoree River.

Drive Time: One hour fifteen minutes, one-way

Departure Time: 1pm **Return Time:** 5pm

Bring: Comfortable clothing, adequate hiking boots or shoes, binoculars and camera are recommended.

Trip Limit: 20 people

Lunch: Box lunch

Websites: southcarolinaparks.com/musgrovemill

Swamp Rabbit Trail Bike Ride

Ride a bike on Swamp Rabbit Trail! Built along almost 20 miles of old railroad bed, the Swamp Rabbit Trail is a paved haven to hikers, mountain bikers, joggers, and nature enthusiasts, and it has stimulated phenomenal growth all along the trail. Ty Houck, formerly of SC State Parks, is Director of Greenways, Natural and Historical Resources for Greenville County Recreation, and he was a major player in the creation of the Swamp Rabbit Trail. He will share some of the issues involved with a trail that winds past homes, businesses, natural areas and Furman University. We will pick up some cruiser bikes courtesy of Sunrift Adventures in Travelers Rest, bike-ride mostly downhill to the Swamp Rabbit Café, a popular spot to grab a snack and drink, before riding mostly uphill back. The ride will be 15 miles roundtrip.

Drive Time: 30 minutes

Departure Time: 1pm **Return Time:** 5pm

Bring: Dress comfortably for a bike ride.

Trip Limit: 20 people

Lunch: Box lunch

Websites: greenvillerec.com/swamprabbit and www.sunrift.com

Roper Mountain Science Center

Come explore Roper Mountain Science Center! The staff will provide a private tour, with a sample of lesson-plans as you walk through history at the Living History Farm, a presentation on Roper Mountain's story-based program themes, check out Wildwood (a nature playground area) and visit a low ropes course. Involves some walking on easy trails. Most of the field trip will be outside. Roper Mountain Science Center is owned by Greenville County Schools and includes STEM labs, a natural science building, a planetarium, a living-history farm and outdoor learning spaces. During the school year,

400 – 600 students visit Roper Mountain every day for high quality “learning labs”. The center also provides 2nd Saturday programs for the public, summer camps, and teacher workshops. Their mission is to ignite the natural curiosity of all learners to explore and shape their world.

Drive Time: Five minutes, one-way

Departure Time: 2pm **Return Time:** 4:30pm

Bring: Wear comfortable clothing.

Trip Limit: 20 people

Lunch: Box lunch

Website: www.ropermountain.org

Lake Conestee

Come discover Lake Conestee Nature Park, a 400-acre hidden natural gem surrounded by concrete and asphalt. Here, you will discover a story of a long relationship between humans and the landscape, sometimes beneficial and sometimes destructive. The relationship can be traced from Native Americans and their hunting grounds, to sharecroppers and farmers, to the mill industry and modern urbanization and now to the conservationists. This land has gone from being gently used to fully exploited and now is being supported and protected so that it can return to its place as a wild space, full of life. In fact, once a Brownfield site, Lake Conestee Nature Park is now an Important Bird Area of Global Significance, a designated Wildlife Sanctuary, a Monarch Waystation and most importantly a hub for educating thousands of school children and adults on how humans can impact the environment.

Drive Time: Fifteen minutes, one-way

Departure Time: 11:30am **Return Time:** 4pm

Bring: Comfortable clothing, adequate hiking boots or shoes, binoculars and camera are recommended.

Trip Limit: 20 people

Lunch: Box lunch

Website: lakeconesteenaturepark.com

Jones Gap State Park

Join us for a day of natural history in the Blue Ridge Mountains of South Carolina. The afternoon will take us to Jones Gap and South Carolina’s first designated scenic river, the Middle Saluda River. Participants will explore a mountain cove forest on an easy one-mile walk and investigate a coldwater habitat to discover the animals that call the Middle Saluda River home. The trip is designed for those who want to get close to nature through activities that are in keeping with the naturalist tradition of careful observation and shared knowledge.

Drive Time: One hour, one-way

Departure Time: 11:30am

Return Time: 5pm

Bring: Comfortable clothing, adequate hiking boots or shoes, and a camera.

Trip Limit: 20 people

Lunch: Box lunch

Website: southcarolinaparks.com/jonesgap