



Join us for a winter celebration of the Roan Highlands—their grassy balds, scenic trails, their ancient geology, and the wonder of 18th century explorers. We'll meet Saturday morning, February 11th at the Roan Mountain State Park conference center.

Charlie Williams, the acclaimed expert on André Michaux, will present a program on this plant explorer's travels through our highlands, along with his dealings with Thomas Jefferson, Lewis & Clark and others. Imagine, Michaux seeing the huge shrubs of red flowers on our June peaks; he named them *Rhododendron catawbiense*. Mr. Williams, Chairman of [Andre Michaux International Society](#), has spent more than 3 decades travelling and exploring the original steps of Michaux through the southern Appalachians—what were then by-ways and settler areas of now Tennessee and North Carolina. This man holds a treasury of history.

Josh Kelly: The old growth primary forests, their understory plants and shrubs of the Michaux days have mostly disappeared in the dust of logging and forest “management”. Josh will show us some ancient areas, hidden and out of reach of the roads and saws they bring.

His work with the So. Appl Forest Coalition, and invaluable research and advice to National Forest programs in our area have shown the way toward reclamation of our forest's gifts. Like explorers centuries before his time, this young man not only catalogues & records the remaining beauty of our highland forests, but offers a scientific way for generations to keep it & grow it.



Michaux's Bigleaf Magnolia, *M. macrophylla*

Lisa Huff will give us a short update on invasive plants during lunch—you can eat them I've been told.... These invaders have arrived at Carver's Gap, and more are on their way.

Hikes and field trips have been the mainstay of Friends rallies for over 4 decades. Always a favorite of kids, here's the lineup:

Hike # 1

Marty Silver, a Warriors' State Park legend with wildlife and children, will lead an animal tracking hike down near

the Doe River. Marty is *the* expert on the habits and habitats of the Roan's animals.

Hike# 2

Jerry Greer, acclaimed Blue Ridge photographer, will lead a photography hike through the beautiful winter woods west of Twin Springs. If you are lucky to have it, see this area on p.92 of his latest book, *The Blue Ridge Ancient & Majestic*. Bring your Canons and Nikons.

Hike # 3

Jamey Donaldson, “superb botanist” as mentioned in Jennifer Bauer's new book, “Roan Mountain: History of an Appalachian Treasure”, will lead a hike to the alder balds on the Roan. Jamey heads up the Roan Mountain Baa-tany Goat Project.

SCHEDULE

Meet at Conference Center 9:15AM

Charlie Williams: Michaux 9:30

break

Josh Kelly: Old Forests 11:00

Lunch City Mkt's goodies 12:00

Lisa Huff : Invasive plant updates

Elizabethton's City Market will present a sumptuous selection of sandwiches for everyone's taste along with platters of cookies and brownies. (edible invasive plants not included)

Hikes

1:PM Meet on lower field left of the Park's cabins entrance; leaders will be at car lineup .

More Info: David Hall

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