Dear Friends,

The 54th annual Spring Rally will continue the tradition of offering field trips lead by top naturalists and engaging programs given by celebrated naturalists. While there will always be field trips that are favorites and are offered every spring, we are excited to offer several brand new field trips this year. One of the new offerings is bird banding in Hampton Creek Cove early Saturday morning with Mark Hopey of Southern Appalachian Raptor Research. On Saturday, Mark will also give our lunchtime, Raptors of the Southern Appalachians, highlighting his research.

We are pleased to welcome Dr. John “Pick” Pickering of Discover Life as our featured speaker on Friday night. Dr. Pickering has been a naturalist since his childhood in England. He received a Ph.D. in Biology from Harvard in 1980 and has lived in Athens, Georgia since 1984, where he serves on the faculty of the Odum School of Ecology. He co-founded the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Discover Life website, and the Georgia Natural History Survey. His passions include understanding insects, plants, and their interactions. Every morning he gets up before dawn and has fun taking photographs of moths. His online album includes 95,000 photographs of nearly 2,000 species.

Discover Life (www.discoverlife.org) is collecting data to monitor the impacts of climate, pollution, and invasives on species and their interactions. The research methods are simple: use digital photography and web tools to monitor key insects, plants, and their interactions. Every morning he gets up before dawn and has fun taking photographs of moths. His online album includes 95,000 photographs of nearly 2,000 species.

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On Saturday evening, our featured speaker will be award-winning Virginia author, Leonard M. Adkins. Profiled by Backpacker magazine and referred to as “The Habitual Hiker,” Mr. Adkins has hiked the entire Appalachian Trail five times and is the author of 17 books about the outdoors and travel. He has aided the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in protecting endangered plants by being a Natural Heritage Monitor and a ridgewalker. He has served on the Board of Directors for both the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club and the Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club, and he has been a volunteer maintainer of the trail near McAfee Knob. Six of Leonard’s books are about the AT, including *The Appalachian Trail: A Visitor’s Companion* (Lovel Thomas Travel Journalism Award) and *Wildflowers of the Appalachian Trail* (National Outdoor Book Award). He is currently a columnist for *Blue Ridge Country* and the hiking blogger for www.richmondoutsides.com.

Mr. Adkins will present Traversing Ancient Mountains: 2,000 Miles on the Appalachian Trail. The presentation, accompanied by folk and classical music, is a compilation of his treks on the Appalachian Trail and depicts a typical “thru-hike” from late winter to fall, and from Georgia to Maine. Mr. Adkins will have several of his books for sale before and after his presentation.

We hope that you will come celebrate the natural history of Roan Mountain with us and our wonderful field trip leaders and excellent guest speakers!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bauer and James Neves
Spring Rally Directors

FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL
Roan Mountain
Spring Naturalists Rally
Friday - Sunday
May 4 – 6, 2012

Friday’s
Guest Speaker:
John Pickering
Program:
Discover Life: Public Participation in Natural History Surveys

Saturday’s
Guest Speaker:
Leonard Atkins
Program:
Traversing Ancient Mountains: 2000 Miles on the Appalachian Trail

Sponsored by:
The Friends of Roan Mountain
Greg Navarro, President
Jennifer Bauer & James Neves
Spring Rally Directors

www.friendsofroanmtn.org
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, May 4, 2011
Roan Mountain State Park Conference Center

5:30 pm Registration

6:30 pm Dinner. **Reservations Required**
Catered by City Market, Elizabethton, TN. ($9.00/adults; $5.00/12 & under): Grilled or Breaded Chicken, Vegetable selection, salad, bread, dessert, drink.

7:30 pm PROGRAM – Dr. John Pickering
Discover Life: Public Participation in Natural History Surveys

9:00 pm Moth Party (E/KF)
John Pickering & Larry McDaniel

Saturday, May 5, 2011

Morning Tours:

6:00 am Nature Photography – Sunrise at Carver's Gap (E)
Jerry Greer
**Meet at Carver’s Gap**

6:30 am Birds of East Tennessee (E/KF)
Lee & Lois Herndon Bird Club
**Meet at Sycamore Shoals State Park in Elizabethton**

7:00 am Bird Banding – A Closer Look at Birds for Bird Watchers of All Ages and Abilities (E/KF)
Southern Appalachians Raptor Research
**Meet at Hampton Creek Cove Natural Area**

8:30 am Meet in the field on the left of the Cabin area entrance:
1 Birds of Roan Mountain (E/KF/CP)
Lee & Lois Herndon Bird Club
2 Jones Falls Hike (M/S/CP)
**Hike is ~3 miles, out and back**: MARRY Silver
3 River & High Mountain Wildflowers (E/KF/CP)
Guy Mauldin
4 Nature Discoveries for Young Folks (KF/CP)
Nora Schubert
5 Nature Photography (E/KF/CP)
Jerry Greer
6 Wildflowers of the Turkey Trot Trail (M)
Tim McDowell

9:30 am Kids Field-Shops!
Birding for Beginners (E/KF/CP)
Meet in the field on the left of the Cabin area entrance
Lee & Lois Herndon Bird Club

Fossils for All Ages (E/KF)
Roan Mountain State Park Conference Center
J.R. Arnold and Mike Zavad, Mick Whitelaw, and ETSU Dept. of Geology and Geoscience Club
**Make your own plaster cast of animals!!**

12:30 pm PROGRAM – Mark Hopey
Raptors of the Southern Appalachians
Roan Mountain State Park Conference Center

Bag Lunches
Available by reservation only. Choice of sandwich (see form), chips, cookie, drink. - $5.50/ea.

Afternoon Tours:
Meet in the field on the left of the Cabin area entrance:

2:00 pm
1 Photowalk: Wildflowers and their Pollinators (E/KF/CP)
John Pickering
2 Wildflowers of Heatton Creek Ridge (M/CP)
David Hall & Patsy Schang
3 Reptiles and Amphibians of Roan Mountain (E/KF/CP)
Jacob Young
4 Baatany Goat Project & Roan’s Unique Alder Bals (M/CP)
James Donaldson
5 Aquatic Insects as Water Quality Indicators (E/KF/W)
Gary Barrigter & Cathy Landy

Evening Activities:
Roan Mtn. State Park Conference Center

6:30 pm Dinner. **Reservations Required**
Catered by City Market, Elizabethton, TN ($9.00/adults, $5.00/12 and under): Roast Pork or Lasagna, Vegetable selection, salad, bread, dessert, drink.

7:30 pm PROGRAM – Leonard Adkins
Traversing Ancient Mountains: 2,000 Miles Highlandlady53@embarqmail.com

Additional Information
Jennifer Bauer – 423-772-4772 (hm), 543-5808 (wk), or highlandlady53@embarqmail.com
James Neves – 706-224-3355 or jamesneves@gmail.com

LODGING
Roan Mountain State Park 423-772-0190
Amicosuit, Elizabethton 423-542-4466
Travel Inn, Elizabethton 423-543-3344
Spencer’s Mountain Cabins, Roan Mtn 423-772-0659
Roan Mountain Bed & Breakfast 423-772-3307
Lakehouse Resort & Marina 423-723-2201
Beech Mtn. Lodges, Elizabethton 800-662-2061
Piney Inn Resort 800-428-3888
Times Square Inn & Restaurant 423-733-9435
Riverside Cottage 423-512-1665
Safe Haven Farm 423-723-4262
Doc River Inn 423-543-1444
Mountain Harbour 866-722-9494

Naturalists’ Rally Registration Form
Name:___________________________
Address:_________________________
Phone:___________________________
Email:___________________________

Both evening programs and all hikes: Non-member adults # _______ @ $5.00 = $ _______
*(Children & Friends of Roan Mountain members—FREE)

All meals by pre-paid reservation only
Reservation deadline- Tuesday, May 1st

Friday, May 4, 2012 - Dinner
# _______ Adults @ $9.00 = $ _______
# _______ Children (12 & under) @ $5.00 = $ _______

Saturday, May 5, 2012 - Bag Lunch
(Pick up at Conference Center at 12:00 Noon)
Choose sandwich:
# Turkey/Swiss # Ham/Cheese
# Chicken Salad # Pimento Cheese
Total lunch # _______ @ $5.50 ea. = $ _______

Friends of Roan Mountain Membership
*(You will not need to pay for Program/Hikes)
Check Category: New Member Renewing Individual $15 Family $20 Student $10 Corporate $45 Lifetime Ind. $350 Lifetime Family $450 = $ _______

Total amount enclosed = $ _______

Mail this form along with your check payable to friends of Roan Mountain to:
Nancy Bargar, Treasurer
708 Allen Avenue, Elizabethton, TN 37643

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS