

31st Annual Wildflower Weekend: May 6-7, 2017

Program Schedule

Saturday, May 6

Bearfence Mountain Hike

9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Vernal irises and birdfoot violets are among the flowers we hope to find on this hike to a 180-degree view. 1.5 miles. Elevation change: about 300 ft. *Hike does not include Bearfence Rock Scramble.* Meet at Meadows School Fire Road parking (mile 56.8, west side of Skyline Drive). *Limited parking.*

Mara Meisel, Park Ranger

Hike to the Highest Peak (repeats on Sunday)

9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

See what's blooming as you hike to the park's highest peak, Hawksbill Mountain (4,050 ft.), and a great view of the Shenandoah Valley. 3 miles. Elevation change: about 685 ft. Meet at **Hawksbill Gap** parking (mile 45.6) ~ *not* Upper Hawksbill parking.

Jack Price, Guest Naturalist

Wonders of the Mill Prong

9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Look for trillium, jack-in-the-pulpit and more along this trail that never fails to delight wildflower lovers. 2 miles. Elevation change: about 400 ft. Meet at Milam Gap parking (mile 52.4).

Kristin Zimet, Guest Naturalist

"Youth Art in the Park" Contest Recognition Ceremony

Noon to 12:30 p.m.

Join us to congratulate the winning artists in the park's wildflower art contest. Byrd Visitor Center auditorium (mile 51).

***Spring Wildflowers for Future Generations**

12:30 to 1:15 p.m.

What wildflowers might you see this spring in Shenandoah? How might climate change affect them and the insects, birds and animals that share an ecological connection with them? PowerPoint program in Byrd Visitor Center auditorium (mile 51).

Mara Meisel, Park Ranger

Stony Man "Rocks"

1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Learn about rock outcrop habitats as you hike to the summit of Stony Man Mountain (elev. 4,010 ft.). 1.6 miles. Elevation change: about 340 ft. Meet at Stony Man Nature Trail parking (mile 41.7, north entrance of Skyland Resort).

Cathy Mayes and Adele Baker, Guest Naturalists

Featured program

Botanical Art Workshop (repeats on Sunday)

1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Learn a few botany basics, pick up tips on observation and composition, then sketch and use watercolors to paint what you see. No art or science background is necessary ~ just come and have fun!

Meet at Byrd Visitor Center auditorium (mile 51). Rain or shine. Wear walking shoes and long pants. Be prepared to sit on the ground, or bring a small folding stool or chair. All art supplies will be provided.
Betty Gatewood, Artist

South River Falls Hike

1:30 to 5:00 p.m.

Look for early saxifrage, rue anemone, showy orchids and more flowers and perhaps a few birds on this trail to a viewpoint overlooking an 83-ft. waterfall. Steep 3.3 miles. Elevation change: about 900 ft. Meet at trailhead in South River Falls picnic area (mile 62.5).

Stephen Paull, Biological Science Technician

***Crescent Rock Trail to Limberlost**

2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Discovery hike on a new trail this year. Even we don't know what may be blooming on this 1.5-mile descent! One-way hike: van will take drivers back to cars. Elevation change: about 325 ft. Meet at Crescent Rock Overlook (mile 44.4).

Mara Meisel, Park Ranger

Sunday, May 7

Spring Birds of Pocosin

9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Look for cerulean warblers, scarlet tanagers and other spring migrants that may be flitting near the spring and surrounding woods. You might discover a few wildflowers along the way. Easy ½-1-mile stroll. Bring binoculars. Meet at Pocosin Cabin parking (*unmarked*, mile 59.5). *Limited parking.*

Alan Williams, Park Ecologist

Hike to the Highest Peak (repeat)

9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. See description of Saturday hike.

Jack Price, Guest Naturalist

Passamaquoddy Loop Hike

9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Look for moss phlox, trillium and more wildflowers along the Appalachian Trail to Little Stony Man Cliffs and the Passamaquoddy Trail. Great valley views. *Hike does not include the summit of Stony Man Mountain.* 2.8 miles. Elevation change: about 560 ft. Meet at Stony Man Nature Trail parking (mile 41.7, north entrance of Skyland Resort).

Mara Meisel, Park Ranger

Featured program

Botanical Art Workshop (repeat)

1:30 to 4:00 p.m. See description of Saturday program.

Betty Gatewood, Artist

Snead Farm Loop Hike

1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

See what flowers await on this hike through a former apple orchard and home site. There may be some surprises! 2.6 miles. Elevation change: about 490 ft. Meet at Dickey Ridge picnic area (mile 4.7).

Richard Stromberg, Guest Naturalist

Appalachian Trail Beauties

2:00 to 4:30 p.m.

This gentle section of the A.T. hosts a diversity of native woodland flowers. 1.5 miles. Elevation change: about 185 ft. Meet at Lewis Mountain picnic area (mile 57.2).

Mara Meisel, Park Ranger

****Denotes new program this year***

Reminders

- Wear sturdy shoes and bring water on all hikes.
- Evaluate your personal fitness and health to choose an appropriate program.
- Please don't bring pets on programs. Service animals welcome.
- Come prepared for wet weather. Walks may be conducted in light rain, but will be canceled in case of thunderstorms.
- Length of trail listed is for entire hike. Elevation changes of less than 70 feet are not included.
- Learn more about Shenandoah's wildflowers at the park's website: www.nps.gov/shen

"None can have a healthy love for flowers unless he loves the wild ones."

~ Forbes Watson

More than 850 species of flowering plants grow in Shenandoah National Park. About 70% of them are native. Many native woodland wildflowers thrive in the dappled forest sunlight of springtime. They race to bloom and attract pollinators before overhead trees become fully leafed out and shade engulfs them. Hot summer sunshine is too strong for them. Now is their time.

Please help to ensure that wildflowers will be around for generations by leaving them unharmed. A flower that is picked misses the chance to spread thousands of seeds. A plant that is dug up is gone forever, and the loss affects all things connected to it. If you love them, leave them.

Meet Our Guest Naturalists and Program Leaders

Adele Baker monitors the rock outcrop and its indigenous rare plants on Stony Man summit as a volunteer with Shenandoah's Adopt-an-Outcrop program. She is a past board member of Old Rag Master Naturalists, the Virginia Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation, and the Shenandoah National Park Association.

Betty Gatewood is a watercolor artist and a keen observer of nature. She has provided cover art for "Virginia's Mountain Treasures" published by The Wilderness Society, and for the Virginia Native Plant Society's "Wildflower of the Year" brochures. She has exhibited art and

illustrated journals at Staunton Public Library, and botanical art at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond. One of her botanical watercolors was selected for the “Flora of the National Parks” exhibit at the U.S. Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C. She is a Virginia Master Naturalist.

Catherine Mayes is treasurer of the Virginia Native Plant Society, past president of Old Rag Master Naturalists, and president of the Virginia Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation. She helps protect the fragile ecosystem on Stony Man summit as a volunteer with Shenandoah’s Adopt-an-Outcrop program.

Jack Price is a Virginia Master Naturalist, Virginia Master Gardener, and Virginia wildlife habitat facilitator. He serves on the board of directors of the Shenandoah National Park Association, and is on the steering committee for the Virginia Master Naturalist program. He was named the Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District “Conservation Educator of the Year” for 2012.

Richard Stromberg is a Virginia Master Naturalist and hike leader, trail maintainer, and rare plant monitor for the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. He is a board member of the Piedmont Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society, and past president of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter of the Master Gardeners Association.

Kristin Zimet worked as a nature guide for Clarke County Parks and Recreation and Smithsonian Journeys. She is a docent for The Nature Conservancy at Ice Mountain Preserve, WV, and for the State Arboretum of Virginia. She is a Virginia Master Naturalist and board member of the Virginia Native Plant Society’s Piedmont chapter.