



Eighth Annual

New River Gorge Wildflower Weekend

Celebrate the glories of Appalachian spring in New River Gorge National River, Hawks Nest, Babcock, and Pipestem State Parks, where wildflowers bloom from the rim of the gorge to the river. Explore these jewels of nature as well as this region's diverse ecology!

Friday, April 22, 2011

Garlic Mustard Pull

9:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M., McKeever Lodge, Pipestem Resort State Park in Pipestem, WV. Celebrate Earth Day and help manage the natural beauty of this site at this *garlic mustard pull*. Walk parts of the River and County Line trails to Indian Branch Falls during this 3.5-mile working hike, and remove this non-native, invasive species. Bring work gloves.

Glories of Appalachian Spring!

1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M., Auditorium, Tamarack in Beckley, WV. Can you feel the sap risin'? Spring is here, so see how forests and rivers come alive with wildlife, trees and more wildflowers than you can count.

Blooms of Big Branch

2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M., Big Branch trailhead, New River Gorge National River off River Rd. near Hinton, WV. Join rangers on a two-mile round trip hike up Big Branch. This somewhat strenuous creek-side forest trail is a wildflower hot-spot, plus includes several waterfalls. Be prepared for stream crossings.

Saturday, April 23, 2011

Hike Into Spring!

9:00 A.M. to 1:30 P.M., Grandview—Shelter #4, New River Gorge National River in Grandview, WV. Join rangers and naturalists on a leisurely 2.5-mile hike from Grandview down to the New River, finding wildflowers along the way. Be prepared for some steep terrain as we travel down the Little Laurel Trail, an old dirt road. A free return shuttle will be provided. **Reservations requested by April 20; call 304-466-0417.**

Art in the Parks: Jr. Ranger Day Fun

1:30 P.M. to 3:30 P.M., Grandview - Cliffside Amphitheatre, New River Gorge National River in Grandview, WV. Wildflowers won't be the only splash of color this weekend. Kids can paint their own flower pots and plant wildflower seeds in them, plus pound yard plants into cool designs.

Sunday, April 24, 2011

Spring Birding at Babcock

9:00 A.M. to 10:30 A.M., Glade Creek Grist Mill, Babcock State Park in Clifftop, WV. Stroll the diverse habitats of Babcock in search of the region's more secretive beauties—birds.

Native Wonders

11:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M., Canyon Rim Visitor Center, New River Gorge National River in Lansing, WV. See a display on wildflowers of the season, plus hear tales of past and present flora uses.

Blooms and Beauties Hike

3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M., Rail Trail trailhead, Hawks Nest State Park in Ansted, WV. Explore the many wonders of the New River Gorge on this walk along the Hawks Nest Rail Trail. See both flora and fauna on this easy hike along an old railroad line. Be ready for good photo opportunities too.

April 5 through 30, 2011

Youth Arts in the Parks

8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. daily, art exhibit in the vestibule across from the David L. Dickerson Fine Arts Gallery, Tamarack in Beckley, WV. Independence Middle School students celebrate regional ecology through art in this special exhibit, works inspired by the nature of our public parks—especially wildflowers. Additional sampling of these artistic works will be on display at the participating national and state parks.

www.tamarackwv.com



Wednesday, April 13, 2011

Clay Center's Lunchtime Lecture: Glories of Appalachian Spring!

12:15 P.M. to 1:15 P.M., Clay Center in Charleston, WV. Can you feel the sap risin'? Spring is here, so see how forests and rivers come alive with wildlife, trees and more wildflowers that you can count. Join a ranger for this closer look at the seasonal beauties and wonders of our region's unbroken Appalachian forest.

www.theclaycenter.org



Saturday, April 23, 2011

6th Annual New River Earth Day Celebration

12:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M., Court Street in Fayetteville, WV. Celebrate Mother Earth at this afternoon of music and festival activities for all ages. Bring your family to learn more about recycling, composting, alternative energy, water conservation, sustainability, and reducing our ecological footprint.

www.greenwv.org/earth-day/



All programs are free! For all guided walks bring water and wear sturdy walking shoes. Snacks, binoculars, a hand lens, and a favorite field guide are also useful.

www.nps.gov/neri or www.wvstateparks.com

304-466-0417 or 304-574-2115

