



Contact:

Adam DeWitte
Development & Communications
828-883-FIND x224
adam@gofindoutdoors.org

For Immediate Release

June 7, 2022

Anna Ruby Falls & Brasstown Bald to Offer “Bear Days”

North Georgia – Anna Ruby Falls and Brasstown Bald Recreation Areas are proud to partner with local nonprofit Appalachia Georgia Friends of the Bears to offer a series of events to bring information and advocacy for north Georgia black bear populations.

The organization began in 2020 by Gerald Hodge, a veteran of the armed forces, who has a clear passion for black bears and a goal of preventing negative bear/human conflict. Their mission achieves this idea through “proactive education outreach programs, increased public awareness about coexisting with black bears, the use of humane bear deterrents, and advocacy.

“It’s so important to emphasize advocacy for all wildlife when we can,” stated Liberti Gates, FIND Outdoors’ Georgia Program Manager. “These events allow our visitors to understand these animals better, while creating the next wave of human support and protection.”

Bear Days will take place at both Brasstown Bald and Anna Ruby Falls Recreation Areas, located in Hiwassee and Helen, Georgia, respectively, and will include an event table with educational items, a talk on keeping both humans and bears safe, and how to bear-proof your home and campsite. Dates are as follows: Brasstown Bald – June 10, July 8, August 12, September 24, and October 13. Anna Ruby Falls will host the group June 24, July 22, August 26, September 9, and October 28. All activities will begin around 10:00am for both sites.

In addition to the events for the two FIND Outdoors-managed sites, Hodges conducts speaking engagements to civic organizations, creates service projects to reduce human/bear conflict, develops educational materials for local businesses, and conducts classes on photography and how to properly use bear deterrents.

Gates concluded, "We're so lucky to have the opportunity to give our visitors information that they can use to create positive change for local wildlife. Our bear population is in great hands with Mr. Hodges and Appalachia Georgia Friends of the Bears."

The event is free to Anna Ruby Falls visitors with admission to the site. For more information about the nonprofit or to learn how you can advocate for black bears, visit www.agfriendsofthebears.com.

To learn more about FIND Outdoors, managed sites, and other programs in the north Georgia area, visit www.gofindoutdoors.org or call Brasstown Bald at 706-896-4137 and Anna Ruby Falls at 706-878-1448, and FIND yourself...out there!

About FIND Outdoors

FIND Outdoors, formerly the Cradle of Forestry in America Interpretive Association, is a 50-year old 501(c)3 nonprofit based in Pisgah Forest, NC. We serve over 900,000 visitors annually with a mission that promotes educational, recreational and interpretive opportunities about forest and water resources, natural history and the Cradle of Forestry in America. FIND Outdoors proudly manages campgrounds, visitor centers, sales outlets and educational facilities on five National Forests in North Carolina, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, and the Northwest Trading Post on the Blue Ridge Parkway. FIND accomplishes its mission by providing exceptional outdoor experiences through partnership opportunities for the health, safety and education of all visitors to local and regional public and private lands.