



OW, WHAT A RIDE THIS PAST YEAR HAS BEEN! FIND Outdoors has come a long way since our founding as the Cradle of Forestry in America Interpretive Association, in Pisgah National Forest. Regardless of our name, we continue to inspire people through numerous avenues within well-managed outdoor recreation sites, campgrounds, guided tours and educational workshops.

Despite the recent unexpected COVID challenges, our leadership team, led by President and CEO Natalie Britt, is poised for a much brighter future with new opportunities to reach an ever-expanding audience. We will continue to provide the high-quality outdoor opportunities the public has come to expect from FIND Outdoors—and we will do it safely. We are thrilled to bring the FIND Outdoors experience to the more than 850,000 annual visitors to our campgrounds, visitor centers, sales outlets and educational facilities in four National Forests. Additionally, we have earmarked funds for the enhancement and upgrade of many existing facilities under our management, including the updating of exhibits and offering new hands-on experiences.

With our plans to give special attention to facility upgrades in all of our managed locations, we trust you'll FIND Outdoors a truly enjoyable experience!

Tad Fogel

Board Chair



FIND OUTDOORS 49 PISGAH HWY, SUITE 4 PISGAH FOREST, NC 28768

828.883.FIND (3463)

FIND OUTDOORS IS A NON-PROFIT 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION.



FIND Outdoors FIELD GUIDE

FIND Outdoors manages sites in North Carolina, Georgia, and Indiana that provide recreation, camping, educational opportunities, shopping, and information to visitors.

ABOUT FIND

05Organizational Highlights

08Staff & Board

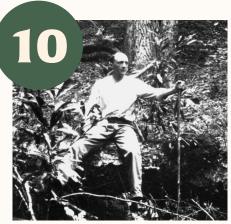
48

Donors & Financials



Coloring Pages for the Kids

Tear out this inside section of the magazine for a fun time coloring our FIND Forest Friends.



Preserving a Natural Legacy

From the Biltmore Forest School in North Carolina to a non-profit reaching outdoor-goers across the nation, this is the story of FIND Outdoors.





FINDing the positive in the most unexpected year.

2020 WAS NOT THE YEAR WE EXPECTED by any means, but we made the most of it and came out on the other side a stronger organization ready to serve YOU!

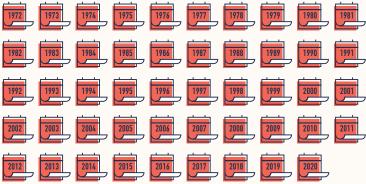
Early in the year, we underwent a complete organizational rebranding to better reflect who we are and what we do. The result is FIND Outdoors. Forest Inspired Nature Discovery. With new organizational clarity, we successfully partnered with the US Forest Service to reopen the Pisgah Visitor Center in Pisgah National Forest and embarked on our first contract with the National Park Service to open the Northwest Trading Post on the iconic Blue Ridge Parkway. In addition, we began operations of a privately-owned campground, Cherryfield Creek Luxury Group Campground and were awarded the GuideStar Gold Seal of Transparency through the GuideStar Exchange Program.

Through a successful commerce program, we were able to **re-invest 83.6% of total revenue** back into the sites that we manage!

We are gearing up for an even better 2021, and we invite you to join us.

LET'S GO FIND OUTDOORS™

YEARS IN OPERATION **AS A NONPROFIT**







DECADES COMBINED NONPROFIT EXPERIENCE ON LEADERSHIP TEAM



850,000 +

ANNUAL SITE VISITORS





GIFT SHOPS + 1 ONLINE STORE



NATIONAL FORESTS

RANGER DISTRICTS



VISITOR CENTERS



+1 NATIONAL PARK **VISITOR CENTER** on the Blue Ridge Pkwy

RECREATION & CAMPING AREAS



CAMPGROUND



WHAT'S YOUR CONNECTION?

THE STORY OF FIND OUTDOORS spans seasons, decades, dedicated employees and committed Board members — all with a focused love and respect for our great outdoors. Thank YOU for joining us in this ever-evolving story of successes and challenges — and for allowing us to help you FIND Outdoors!

Founded in 1972, The Cradle of Forestry in America Interpretive Association (CFAIA), now known simply as FIND Outdoors, is a nonprofit organization based in Pisgah Forest, NC with a mission of education and recreational opportunities for ALL. We offer exceptional outdoor experiences and services to improve the health, safety, and education of all visitors to our public and private lands. It is our intention to develop meaningful relationships with our partners and visitors alike in order to: 1) Fulfill a joint vision of awareness and equity with like-minded organizations and constituents, 2) change the world in a creative and inclusive manner, and 3) reflect the rich diversity that contributes to our communities and society as a whole.

Join us on the journey to help people FIND Outdoors...



The FIND Outdoors Family



Natalie Britt
PRESIDENT/CEO

A passionate nonprofit leader with over 20 years of experience.

Dedicated to all things outdoors including mountain biking, paddling and backpacking. Natalie loves cooking for friends, drinking local beer, spending time with her dog, Penelope and cheering on SEC Football.



Beth Hooper
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

A people person with a love for retail and the great outdoors found her dream job when she came to work for FIND Outdoors seven years ago. Beth enjoys spending time camping and boating at the lake, antiquing and binge watching True Crime television.



Crystal Reese
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Crystal has worked in the nonprofit field for over 30 years (11 of those years with FIND), doing what she loves to do. She loves her family and vacationing, when there is time, and looks forward to one day traveling the states in an RV.



Adam DeWitte

VP OF DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS

Adam has been working in the outdoor and environmental education field for almost 25 years and shows no sign of slowing down. His family and friends, gardening, cooking, traveling, any outdoor activities and live music are his pride and passion.



Clay Wooldridge EDUCATION DIRECTOR



Tommy Turk
FACILITIES & OPERATIONS DIRECTOR



RICHARD COADWELL
RETAIL OPERATIONS DIRECTOR



Angie McGee



Cory Blackwell
FACILITIES & OPERATIONS ASSISTANT



Brooke Reese
RETAIL OPERATIONS ASSISTANT



Sharon Tam
COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE



CRADLE OF FORESTRY

Pisgah National Forest, NC

Christy Ralston Manager

Stephanie Bradley

Cradle of Forestry

Education Manager



ANNA RUBY FALLS

• Helen, GA

Parker Hollifield Manager

Matthew Summers
Assistant Manager

Tracie Allison

Gift Shop Manager



PISGAH VISITOR CENTER

Pisgah National Forest, NC

Connie Mero Manager

Matthew Christian

Assistant Manager



NORTHWEST TRADING POST

• Pisgah National Forest, NC

Rachel Rector Manager

Maureena Denny
Assistant Manager



BRASSTOWN BALD

Hiawassee, GA

Dru Cosner Manager

Liberti Gates Georgia Education Manager

YEAR-ROUND CAMPGROUND MANAGERS

Jennifer Ballard RD Woodard

BOARD MEMBERS

Harry "Tad" Fogel, *Board Chair*Eric Caldwell, *Vice Chair*Larry D. Wolter, *Treasurer*Chad Leatherwood, *Secretary*

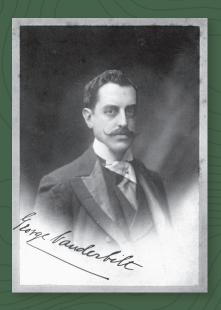
Larry O. Ascher, Ed.D
Catherine Gain
Rusty Garrison
Wendell "WC" Godfrey
Patrick Hiesl
Amy Kinsella
Emily Quinlan

PRESERVING A NATURAL LEGACY

FROM THE BILTMORE FOREST SCHOOL IN NORTH CAROLINA

TO A MULTI-SITE FOREST-BASED NON-PROFIT,

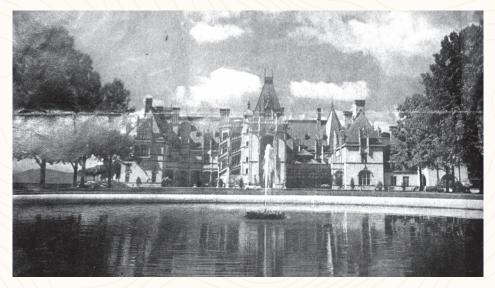
REACHING OUTDOOR-GOERS ACROSS THE NATION.



UR STORY BEGINS with the arrival of George Vanderbilt to the mountains of western North Carolina in 1888. George, the youngest child of the Vanderbilt fortune, fell in love with the beautiful Blue Ridge vistas, and immediately began purchasing property around the Asheville area. In 1889, ground was broken on the 250-room mansion known as the Biltmore — designed by Richard Morris Hunt and modeled after the elegant designs of the Chateau de Blois and other chateaux of the Loire Valley in France. As work commenced, hundreds of local laborers and craftsmen were brought in from across the nation, and Vanderbilt quickly became the largest employer in western NC. On Christmas Eve 1895, with parts of the home yet unfinished, George opened the house to friends and guests.

In 1898, Vanderbilt met and married Edith Stuyvesant Dresser of New York. Both were forward thinkers and very involved in the local community. Edith not only served as the mistress of the estate but sponsored literacy and educational programs and promoted crafts through which women might support themselves.

Vanderbilt deeply loved this area of the country and quickly amassed 125,000 acres surrounding the estate. As the property expanded, he witnessed the devastation and mismanagement left behind by logging companies and unsustainable farming practices.



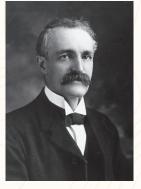
▲ BILTMORE ESTATE

On the recommendation from Landscape
Architect Frederick Law Olmstead,
Vanderbilt made the decision to conserve
the land for future generations.

In 1892, Olmstead also convinced Vanderbilt to hire Gifford Pinchot, the first American trained in forestry at the time, to complete the massive undertaking of restoring the forested acreage.

For three years, Pinchot worked as the resident forester to the Biltmore Estate. His vision included numerous principles of forest conservation which he coined his "conservation ethic." Pinchot believed that by maintaining the health of the forest and planning for its use, one could also guarantee its viability as a renewable resource for the future. Practices in this ethic included the thinning of weak or diseased trees, felling techniques to allow for new growth and maintaining the overall health of the forest.

Pinchot felt his grand plan had begun on the Biltmore Estate and should be continued, but his work had thrust him into national prominence and into leadership of the newly formed Division of Forestry in Washington D.C. He suggested that Vanderbilt hire a brilliant German forester by the name of Dr. Carl Alwyn Schenck to take his place.



CIRRODA DINCHO

1895

Vanderbilt agreed, and in 1895 Schenck traveled to America to begin his new role. New scientific practices were adopted by the German forester such as regeneration of certain tree species, creation of tree nurseries and the use of native seeds for replanting efforts on the property.

During his work on the property, Schenck found himself explaining to young men in the community why it was so important to maintain healthy forests. The ever-growing interest in the subject led him to consider establishing his own forestry education program on the estate.





BFS STUDENTS OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL

Schenck asked to use a small piece of Vanderbilt's property as the first school for forestry in the United States. The Biltmore Forest School was born!

With Vanderbilt's permission, Schenck used abandoned farm buildings on the estate grounds for classroom study, supplemented by extensive hands-on and practical forest management field training in the high, cool reaches of what was referred to by locals as 'The Pink Beds'. Many of the graduates of the Biltmore Forest School went on to become the first generation of American professional foresters, and the school was a great source of pride for Dr. Schenck until its closure in 1913. Despite its short existence, the school laid the foundation for what is now American forestry education.

1916

Pisgah National Forest was established.

The Forest now includes over 500,000 acres of hiking, biking, camping and fishing heaven.

1914

After George Vanderbilt's death, his wife Edith sold 86,700 acres of the Biltmore Estate in 1914 to the federal government under the Weeks Act. The passage of the Weeks Act enacted by Congress on March 1, 1911 was one of the most significant environmental bills. It provided for the US Forest Service to acquire private forest lands for public use, which led to the creation of national forests throughout the eastern United States.



In 1968, Congress set aside 6,500 acres within the very area that Schenck used for his school to establish the Cradle of Forestry in America to "preserve, develop, and make available to this and future generations the birthplace of forestry and forestry education in America."

Over time, the site developed programming, interactive exhibits and signature events to tell the story of Dr. Schenck and the historic Biltmore Forest School.



THE CRADLE OF FORESTRY SITE

1972



In I972, the Cradle of Forestry in America Interpretive Association (CFAIA) was established to help the US Forest Service with operations at the Cradle of Forestry, specifically in the realm of retail sales.

1980-90's

By the 1980's, successful operations with the Cradle of Forestry paved the way for further partnerships with the US Forest Service. The CFAIA vision expanded to include visitor center and campground management as far as Texas, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

The late 1980's brought changes to the CFAIA yet again "to offer educational, recreational, and interpretive opportunities about forest and water resources."

Education programs at CFAIA managed sites began in earnest throughout the 1990's in an effort to educate visitors on the importance of our public lands and the significance of the managed sites.

With this priority of education in the forefront of CFAIA's mission, the nonprofit began looking for other avenues through which to educate.



The Natural Inquirer came on board in 2004 as a new partner project with the US Forest Service to provide the public with free scientific education materials for grades Pre-K through grade 12. This partnership created an entirely different avenue in which to get children involved in the actual science of helping shape our world's public lands. Our organization works closely with the US Forest Service to this day to write, print and distribute these publications all over the world each year.





ANNA RUBY FALLS / PHOTO: PHOTOJCI23. FLICKR.COM

2010

Other opportunities were developed as the nonprofit moved into the 2010's, specifically the inclusion of two major investments, Brasstown Bald and Anna Ruby Falls Recreation Areas in northern Georgia - both visitor centers and major destination points in their own right.



- FIND VISITORS ENJOYING A HIKE
- THE OBSERVATION TOWER AT BRASSTOWN BALD

Then came the birth of The Pisgah Field School which was created to offer educational tours through the CFAIA. The field school focused on immersing visitors on the public lands surrounding our home base of Pisgah Forest through guided hikes, workshops and local partnerships. These major additions to the CFAIA catalogue sealed a foothold in providing exceptional informational and educational opportunities throughout the southeast.

In 2019, the CFAIA began the major undertaking of rebranding in an effort to better reflect who we were, who we are now with various partnerships across multiple states, and where we are heading for the future.

Our new brand was developed in partnership with Trevett's Creative, to help us provide the same inspiring experiences at every site, and with every interaction that we have with our visitors. Through Forest Inspired Nature Discovery, we help people FIND Outdoors!



FIND'S NEW BRAND, PROUDLY DISPLAYED AT THE CRADLE OF FORESTRY

2021

Today, FIND Outdoors inspires people to connect with nature through exceptionally-managed outdoor recreation sites, campgrounds, guided tours, educational programming and nature-based retail items across the Southeast and well beyond. Through this connection, we hope to instill stewardship of our natural resources so that together we can preserve our public lands for future generations.

Through Forest-Inspired Nature Discovery, we help people...



GROWING FOR THE FUTURE

As a non-profit entity, FIND Outdoors reinvests precious dollars received through donations, gifts, programming, and visitation directly back into the sites that we manage to help you to discover why you FIND your connection to the outdoors in the first place! We're very proud of the work we can achieve with our partners and communities to ensure the longevity and legacy of these educational and recreational sites. The story continues...



Ways to FIND a Happier, Healthier Life

Work hard to make lots of money.

memories of outdoor adventures

Buy yourself that new smart phone.

Annual Pass and reconnect with nature

Spend the morning scrolling through social media.

admiring the beauty of a mountain sunrise

Make memories with a new TV.

weekend camping trip

Work hard to gain followers online.

give back to your community

Do what you can to protect your popularity.

our public lands

Take a stroll through the mall.

forest

Huddle around the computer and watch the latest video.

campfire and make memories with family and friends

FIND happiness in luxury and excess.

a rocking chair and a sunset







PISGAH NTL. FOREST, NC



PISGAH **VISITOR CENTER** CHERRYFIELD **GROUP CAMPING** BREVARD, NC



BLACK MOUNTAIN CAMPGROUND

BRIAR BOTTOM **GROUP CAMPING** BURNSVILLE, NC



VAN HOOK GLADE CAMPGROUND HIGHLANDS, NC

LAKE RABUM **BEACH** LAKEMONT, GA



LAKE WINFIELD **SCOTT**

AKE RUSSELL **CAMPGROUND**



INDIAN-CELINA & TIPSAW ST. CROIX, IN

NANTAHALA RANGER DISTRICT



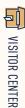
CHEOAH RANGER DISTRICT



OUTDOORS Field Guide

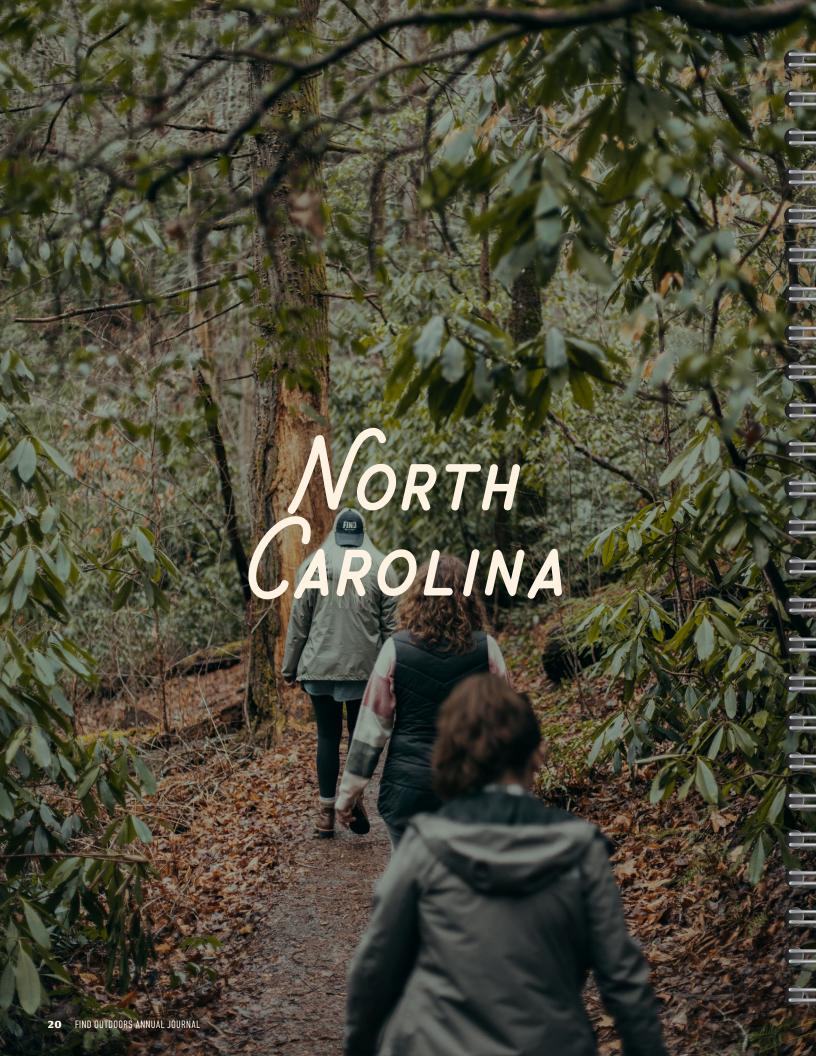












Partnerships offer exciting opportunities to promote the message of stewardship.



HEMLOCK RESTORATION INITIATIVE

In the fall of 2020 we partnered with Hemlock Restoration Initiative (HRI) to begin treating our native species of eastern hemlock for an infestation of the hemlock woolv adelgid (Adelges tsugae). This species of insect, native to Asia, attacks and drains the needles of the hemlock of its precious nutrients, causing the needles, branches and eventually entire tree to die.

Through this very important partnership conservation project, FIND staff hosted 20 nonprofit and Federal partners at Black Mountain Campground for weekend-long training and treating sessions where we were able to share our mission, message, and hope for healthy forests.

In addition, our Natural Inquirer

team developed a joint publication along with HRI and FIND Outdoors that highlights the devastating effects of an invasive species on a given area's

water cycle.



We take pride in creating safe spaces for not only our visitors, but also the native flora and fauna that call these ecosystems home.



Black Mountain





50 Black Mountain Campground Road Burnsville, NC 28714

→ Fishina

Hiking

Tubing

Camping

LOCATED IN THE SHADOW OF MT. MITCHELL, Black Mountain and Briar Bottom Campgrounds have become the go-to sites for locals and visitors alike for decades. The South Toe River winds its way through old growth forest and lush thickets of rhododendron and passes directly adjacent to both campgrounds, offering on-the-water campsites that will take your breath away. Fishing, hiking, splashing, exploring, tubing or simply chatting by the campfire are all on tap at Black Mountain and its sister group campsite just up the trail -Briar Bottom.

TAKE A HIKE

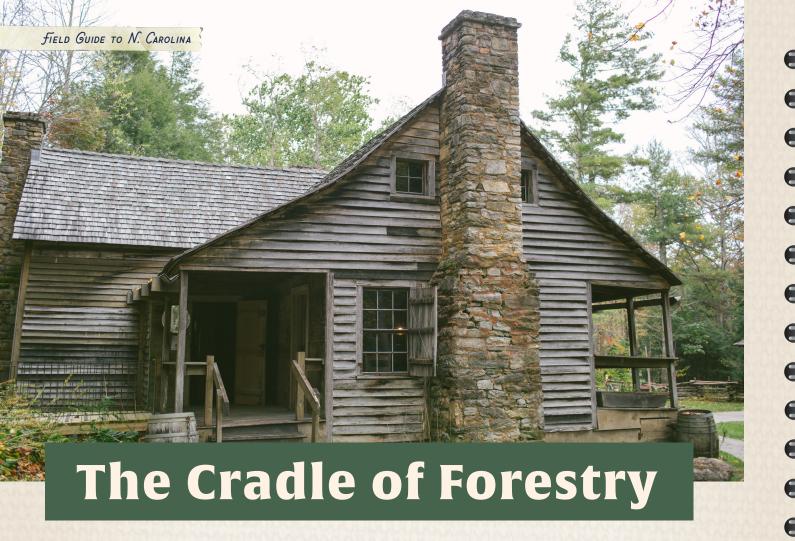
THE MOUNT MITCHELL TRAIL

6,684 FT // 6 MILE // 4.5 HR ↑ // 3 HR ↓

The Mt. Mitchell Trail extends from Black Mountain Campground to the summit of Mt. Mitchell, the highest peak in the eastern United States!

This trek will challenge you as the 6-mile, 4.5-hour ascent will take you into some of the wildest and most scenic forest in Pisgah National Forest. From the Mt. Mitchell observation deck at the 6,684-foot peak, you'll gaze out over a southern Appalachian spruce-fir forest, comprised of both red spruce and Frasier fir coniferous trees, which create a truly unique landscape and microclimate.

Make sure to take extra clothes, as the summit can deliver unpredictable weather, including extremely high winds, frigid temperatures and ample amounts of rain. Plan on a 3-hour hike back down the trail and relish in the fact that your campsite, hot beverage and campfire are waiting for you!

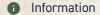


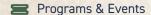




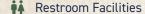


11250 Pisgah Highway Pisgah Forest, NC 28768











→ WHEN THE CRADLE OF FORESTRY SITE WAS SET ASIDE BY CONGRESS IN 1968 to be

protected as part of the heritage of public lands, there were many ideas about how the land would be utilized. Plans were eventually drafted for a visitor center that would demonstrate the early days of forestry in Western North Carolina and the founding of the Biltmore Forest School. As the role of FIND Outdoors at The Cradle of Forestry site has grown, we have worked more closely with the USFS to identify infrastructure needs in order to sustain a safe, high quality interpretive experience. The USFS is currently in the process of a major construction effort to replace the roof system at the Discovery Center at The Cradle, protecting the exhibits and

one-of-a kind treasures for future generations.

Phase one of a new project called the "Citizen Science Lab" at The Cradle began in the fall of 2019 and has developed into a labor of love on the part of Cradle staff.

Born from the idea that "doing is the best form of learning," we seek to introduce our guests to the skills and tools of real, on- the-ground science that happens on public lands. From developing the conceptual framework, establishing funding sources through grants and community donations and working with the exceptional team at **Design Dimensions** to bring our ideas to life, the FIND team has spent countless hours turning this

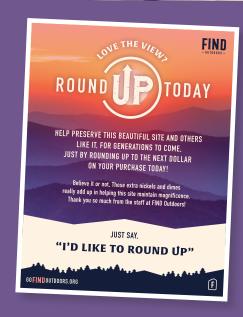


dream into a reality. In addition to our federal partners such as the USFS, local Transylvania County businesses have offered their time, energy and expertise to obtain forest products to be featured in the new exhibit.

Other partnerships to note: Bartlett Tree Service in Brevard, NC donated the trunks of nine different species of trees to be included in the exhibit. while 3 Oak Woodworking milled and dried these huge trees into specific shapes for the exterior of the exhibit. This process has exemplified what is possible in the current partnership with the USFS. In total, FIND Outdoors has been awarded \$120,000 in grant funding from the NC Museum of Natural Sciences with an additional \$10,000 in donations from private sources. With a second round of grant funding secured, FIND staff at the Cradle have already begun the planning for phase 2 of the Lab. The team is looking forward to bringing new and exciting ways for our visitors to experience a taste of what goes into managing our nation's public lands.

As the pandemic closed down public venues last spring, the Cradle Education Manager and FIND Education Director realized that they would not be able to have the in-person contact with visiting school groups or public programs as previously planned. The educators were forced to think outside of the box in terms of programming. Their clever solution was to create educational short videos, which have been a huge success with homeschool families, virtual classrooms and anyone craving a fun, educational experience during this challenging time. You can find them on YouTube by searching FIND Outdoors.





Making Good Use of Round-Up Dollars

The FIND Outdoors' "Round-Up" program, used at all visitor center sites to help with programming costs, allows gift shops visitors the option to round up their purchase total to the nearest dollar. Collected nickels and dimes are then used to help fund special projects around each site.

To be successful creating digital content at the Cradle, staff needed to purchase a camera and other necessary equipment. Thankfully, the Round-Up program helped make it possible.

The goal for the upcoming season is to turn the camera's attention not only to things that make the Cradle special, but

everything FIND Outdoors does to create a sense of connection at each site. Subscribe to the FIND Outdoors YouTube and Facebook pages to stay updated with their most recent creations and visit the Resources page at www.gofindoutdoors.org!



RIVERFRONT PICNIC SITE





8516 Highway 80 South Burnsville, NC 28714





Tubing

Camping



⇒ YANCEY COUNTY, NC HAS ITS SHARE OF AMAZING VIEWS.

forests and communities, and Carolina Hemlocks Campground and Recreation Area is the place where locals gather for their summer fun. Incredible tubing, swimming and fishing opportunities abound here and keep outdoor enthusiasts coming back time and again.

Nestled along the South Toe River, just downstream from Black Mountain Campground, Carolina Hemlocks has a look and feel all its own and is a go to spot for anyone looking to refresh in a mountain river. Two campground loops offer visitors the chance to camp either riverside or in a more secluded, wooded setting surrounded by majestic hemlock and oak trees.

The campground has sites available for both tents and RV's. Located in the Appalachian District of the Pisgah National Forest, Carolina Hemlocks is just a short drive from Mount Mitchell State Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Camping in NC is the best way to spend a vacation, getaway or special occasion!

Two hiking trails, clocking in at 1 mile and 3.8 miles, traverse through and around the area adjacent to the campground and recreation area, ending at the star of the show - the crystal-clear waters of the Carolina Hemlocks swimming hole! Sun yourself on the "rock patio" next to the river and prepare to plunge into the beautiful, cool waters of the South Toe. This is your next adventure!

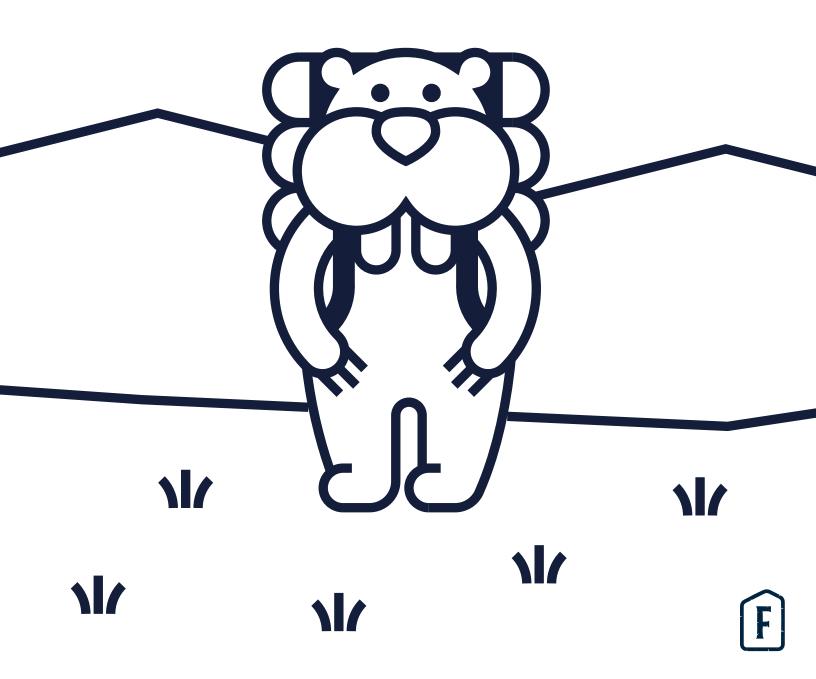


ESTP 0 U T D 0 0 R S 1972

FOREST FRIENDS COLORING PAGES



THE BACKPACKING BEAVER





Olive

THE OPERATIC OWL









Harola

THE HAIRY HIBERNATOR





11







414 Trading Post Rd. (MM #259) Glendale Springs, NC 28629



Information

Programs & Events

Retail

Restroom Facilities

BUILT IN THE LATE 1950'S as a stop for adventurous Parkway-goers, "The Post" is a 3,000+ square foot retail destination along the beautiful Blue Ridge Parkway at mile marker 259, just outside of Glendale and 45 minutes from Boone, NC. The site retains its original historic charm in features such as large rocking chairs on the spacious front porch and original hardwood floors.

FIND discovered the opportunity for operation through the former management, Sallie Mae's on the Parkway - a purveyor of local crafts, snacks and souvenirs for years. FIND was awarded the contract from the National Park Service and has found the first full year of operation to be an exciting adventure.

"The opportunity to run the Trading Post was a major milestone for our nonprofit," said Beth Hooper, Chief Operating Officer for FIND. "Working in partnership with the National Park Service has been a dream of ours for a long time and we're overwhelmed by the positive support from them." Since opening in 2020, FIND

has received two of the highest-rated evaluations from the National Park Service for site excellence—a very proud moment for our organization!

Parkway memorabilia such as t-shirts. hats and sweatshirts adorn the shelves alongside homemade crafts and snacks, hot and cold drinks and much more. In addition to being a retail outlet and information center, the Post used the 2020 season to introduce several new programs to the list of services that it provides, creating enhanced visitor opportunities. The Friends of the Mountains-To-Sea Trail hosted their MST Birthday Celebration Hike with a guided walk along the Mountains-To-Sea Trail, which runs adjacent to the Post. FIND Outdoors used this amazing opportunity to offer the proceeds from their Round-Up program at the Post to benefit the trail, which led to a \$500 donation to support projects and education provided by the Friends group. The Round-Up program allows visitors to round their purchases up to the nearest dollar, and over time those

extra nickels and quarters are used to provide programming and site repairs for the Post and donations to help fund other nonprofit projects. Two programs entitled "The Cherokee of Southern Appalachia" and "The Cherokee Art of Stalking for Photographers" were offered in fall of 2020 by Mark Warren, author and owner of Medicine Bow Wilderness School in Dahlonega, Georgia. The show-and-tell sessions included an in-depth look at the daily life of this indigenous tribe and how they were guided by an intimacy and reverence for the Earth to create an understanding of their lands and forests.

FIND Outdoors is looking forward to another exciting year as we open up the doors and shutters, allowing the brilliant Parkway sunlight into the Trading Post for 2021. Look for more educational opportunities, additions to the retail space and lots of other surprises at the Northwest Trading Post!







1600 Pisgah Highway Pisgah Forest, NC 28768

→ THE GATEWAY TO OVER 500,000 ACRES OF RECRE-ATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES sits

along a stretch of Highway 276 north in Transylvania County at the entrance to Pisgah National Forest. The Pisgah Visitor Center, housed within the Pisgah Ranger Station, is the first stop along this beautiful stretch of "Scenic Byway" and has everything you'll need for a successful trip to the NC mountains.

FIND Outdoors and the US Forest Service (USFS) worked diligently in partnership to safely re-open the Visitor Center after a temporary closure due to the COVID pandemic.

- Information
- Programs & Events
- Retail
- Restroom Facilities
- Concessions

The Visitor Center welcomes over 160,000 visitors each year from all over the world and is the perfect base of operations to begin your adventure. Services offered to visitors include:

- Information on local trails, closures, recreational opportunities, local campgrounds, and roadside camping
- Waterfall safety and Leave No Trace principles
- Forest and safety-inspired exhibits

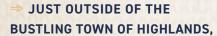


EXHIBIT INSIDE PISGAH VISITOR CENTER

As FIND begins operations of the Pisgah Visitor Center, we realize how important it is to properly communicate information that helps to shape our visitors' decisions. Our number one priority is the safety of all visitors with questions about a trail or who want to know where the best waterfalls are located. FIND hires, trains, and manages individuals who not only have experience in a particular field, but understand the value of proper information as a means to keep every single visitor safe.



Van Hook Glade Campground & Cliffside Lake



NC, lie two historic and tranquil vacation spots that personify what it means to spend quality time in the North Carolina mountains.

Imagine yourself tucked inside a small cove of rhododendrons, ridges, water and wildlife. Cliffside Lake Recreation Area offers all this and more as one of the premier dayuse areas in western NC. The site was a wayside stop for Hernando de Soto in 1540 as he made his way along the Cullasaja River to what is now Franklin, NC. And it's no wonder why he chose the spotcrystal clear streams, cooler temperatures and bountiful wildlife to hunt all made the area the perfect resting point during such an arduous journey.

Fast forward to the 1930's, when the federal government decided to dynamite through the immense granite shelves in the Cullasaja Gorge and build a series of access roads for locals and tourists alike. Cliffside Lake was born from a partnership between the USFS, Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration as a way to increase public services such as parks and natural areas, while offering employment to out-ofwork Americans.

Cliffside Lake offers visitors the chance to relax, swim in a private, secluded lake or take the lakeside trail to find the perfect spot to fish for trout, brim and bass. Scattered throughout the site is evidence of the work conducted by the CCC, as historic picnic shelters and the







14014 Highlands Road Highlands, NC 28741

Fishing

Boating

Swimming



Hiking



Camping

bathhouse at the beach all sit within perfect view of the lake below.

Reinvestment into FIND sites can take so many forms and have such an immense impact on the way our partners view our services. Van Hook Glade Campground received a massive facelift in 2020 as new gravel was poured and spread around each campsite, creating a crisp, clean look to an already-beautiful site.

Information boards can bring the world of education and recreation into the hands of anyone visiting one of FIND's managed sites. FIND worked with Trevett's and the USFS to redesign and repurpose the information boards at Cliffside Lake in 2020, a project that will eventually span each visitor center, campground and kiosk across all FIND Outdoors sites.



COVERED CAMPSITE





195 Stillwaters Lane Brevard, NC 28712



Group Camping



Luxury Facilities



Hiking



Fishing



LUXURY FACILITIES FOR GUESTS

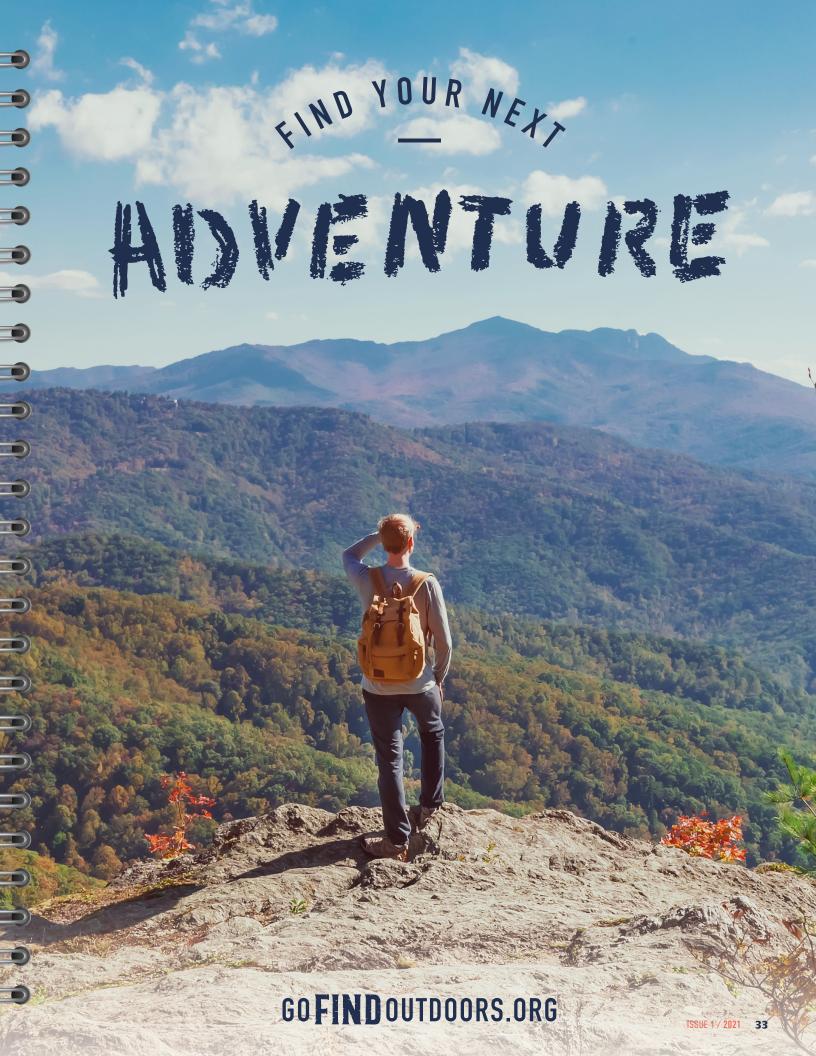
⇒ RUSTIC MEETS LUXURY

AT CHERRYFIELD, where you can commune with nature, then get refreshed in a beautiful, heated bathhouse designed for privacy and comfort! Nestled in a private wooded glen, Cherryfield Creek is FIND Outdoors' only privately managed site and is the perfect spot for events, weddings, large camping groups, meetings and so much more. Listen to the creek bubble and continue its endless journey, take a hike to several private waterfalls, or relax under your covered common area complete with a massive swing, all within just a few miles of downtown Brevard.

Because Cherryfield is privately owned and readily available, a

partnership between the owner and FIND Outdoors has positioned both parties to enact a master plan that includes protections and stewardship of the property. Through educational programming, demonstrations and signage, FIND Outdoors will not only offer the site as a recreational complex, but will help the public understand the value of conservation and sow the seeds in shaping the next generation of public and private land stewards.

Through these efforts of helping the public gain a better understanding of our natural resources, FIND **Outdoors strives to make** not only our sites, but our surrounding communities better than we found them.



DO YOU

Love RV Life?

YOU CAN BECOME A CAMPGROUND HOST

Enjoy the outdoors, meet new friends and provide information to visitors.

- ✓ A flexible schedule, with plenty of time for play
- Electricity, water and sewer hook-ups
- ✓ Access to WiFi and laundry facilities
- **Enjoy outdoor living while giving back**

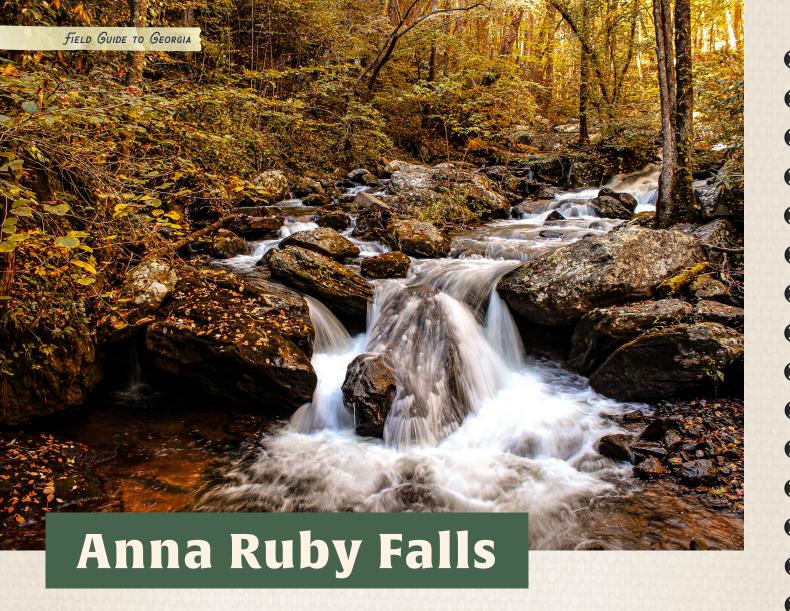
GOFINDOUTDOORS.ORG/EMPLOYMENT















3455 Anna Ruby Falls Road Helen, GA 30545

Information

Programs & Events

Retail

Restroom Facilities

⇒ DEEP IN THE HEART OF THE CHATTAHOOCHEE-OCONEE NATIONAL FOREST lies a natural wonder that not only inspires the imagination but holds an amazing history, dating back thousands of years.

Inhabited by the Cherokee people, the area surrounding the location of Anna Ruby Falls was an extremely important trade route and buffalo trail named the Unicoi Turnpike which ran for 200 miles through North Carolina and into Tennessee. It is thought that the area contained a Cherokee town called Nacoochee,

or 'Nagutsi' to the Cherokee, eventually becoming the unincorporated community of Sautee Nacoochee just outside of Helen, GA.

It is in the Nacoochee valley in 1870 that Captain James Nichols relocated and built a lavish home in the Italianate architectural style and settled down with his family.





EDUCATIONAL EVENTS AT ANNA RUBY FALLS

Known as "West End" because of its location in the valley beyond, the home was a wonder of modern technology for the time and included such additions as a climate control system hot, running water and a private telephone line to the house. The West End is also where Captain Nichols and his wife, Kate, raised their daughter, Anna Ruby Nichols,



bestowing her name on the waterfall that was so often frequented by Captain Nichols and his daughter.

Walking along the half-mile trail at Anna Ruby Falls, you'll discover the quiet calm of the surrounding hardwood forests and realize why Captain Nichols and Anna Ruby felt drawn to the area. It only takes a few moments to walk up to the massive two-system waterfall, but takes so much more than that to take it all in. The headwaters of Curtis Creek and York Creek begin far upstream at Tray Mountain and eventually come together to form the twin Anna Ruby Falls, plummeting 153 feet and 50 feet, respectively. From there the two waterways form Smith Creek, which flows to Unicoi Lake nearby.

Because of ever-changing needs due to weather, wear and human interaction, Anna Ruby Falls requires constant attention by management and staff throughout the year. FIND reinvests revenue and "Round Up" funds at the gift shop into maintenance at the observation deck and facilities, programming and special events to highlight the cultural significance and natural beauty of this important site.

FIELD GUIDE TO GEORGIA



FEATURED EVENT

IN SEARCH OF FOXFIRE

Night hikes // May and June

The yearly "Foxfire" viewing takes place in May and June, in which tiny bioluminescent insect larvae light up the moist rhododendron banks along the trail leading to the falls. Imagine a sea of stars, not in the night sky but at your fingertips! "In Search of the Foxfire" has become a time-honored tradition at Anna Ruby Falls and one of the site's premier events.

"The Foxfire program was an amazing adventure with a wonderful guide. Thank you!"



PHOTO: CHATTOCONEENF & ALAN CRESSLER, FLICKR.COM







2941 Highway 180 Spur Hiawassee, GA 30546

- Information
- Programs & Events
- Retail
- Restroom Facilities

NATURE HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE STAR AT BRASSTOWN BALD RECREATION AREA. At

4,784 feet in elevation, nature never fails to impress with one of the most amazing views you're likely to see. Straddling two counties and the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, on a crystal clear day at the highest point in Georgia you're likely to see four states – including the skyline of downtown Atlanta!

The name Brasstown Bald is thought to be derived from the Cherokee word Itse'yi for "new green place" or "place of fresh green", but along the way was mistaken for the Cherokee word for "brass", Untsai'yi. Today, a rustic stone and wooden structure sits atop the bald and welcomes visitors with an observation deck, visitor center and "Mountaintop Theater." Built in the mid-1960's, the complex was opened to the public in June of 1967 as a way to enhance a visitor's experience by showcasing the rich human and natural history of the north Georgia mountains. Exhibits adorn the visitor center for those interested in learning how the forces of nature shaped Brasstown Bald and how the land, in turn shaped its people and how those people shape the future.

Preservation and restoration of public lands and their facilities give visitors a physical and emotional connection to a site and create a mentality of stewardship for what they feel is important. As with all FIND-managed sites, upkeep and maintenance are ongoing projects. Ensuring that buildings, roads, trails and exhibits are in excellent condition is essential for efficient operations and visitor satisfaction and safety.

Working collaboratively with the USFS, FIND Outdoors created a four-part plan to identify and repair structural problems pertaining to Brasstown's roof, an important project that concluded in December of 2020. Over the course of four years, sections of roofing were replaced or repaired



A BRASSTOWN BALD TUCKED AMONGST THE BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS



A BRASSTOWN BALD OBSERVATION DECK

over the Mountaintop Theater and public restrooms, addressing two long-standing structural issues that had become a top priority. By conducting the repairs, FIND will then be able to focus its attention on the theater itself and create a new experience for visitors – complete with a new movie, advancements to equipment and new seating. The future updates

will turn the Mountaintop Theater into a destination for workshops, speakers, educational opportunities and so much more.

By serving the sites we manage, FIND assures their future for those wishing to take up the mantle and become an ambassador of public lands.

Brasstown Bald Educators Get Creative Amidst 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic

In 2020, Brasstown staff were thrilled to offer socially-distanced programming to their calendar including "Trick or Treat on the Trail" featuring spooky crafts, costume

N THE TR

One of Brasstown's signature events, "Raptor Rendezvous," allows visitors to interact with live birds of prey and

learn about their importance in the food chain.

contests and, of course, candy.

Another highlight of the year was easily the "River Valley to Mountain Top Photography Workshop", a full-day excursion to make participants better photographers and show the intricacies of different style cameras. The workshop followed the sunlight from sunrise at Anna Ruby Falls and ended with an incredible sunset on Brasstown's observation deck.



Lake Rabun Beach





4726 Lake Rabun Road Lakemont, GA 30552



Fishing



Boating



Swimming



Hiking



Camping

→ THERE'S NOTHING QUITE LIKE CAMPING AT THE LAKE.

and Lake Rabun Beach in north Georgia is one of FIND's gems for making the most of your summer days on the water. Situated along the Lake Rabun waterfront, the campground offers visitors both primitive sites and those with electricity and water, keeping the comfort level high and welcoming travel trailers as well as tents.



WOODED HIKING TRAILS



PICNIC AREAS AT LAKE RABUN BEACH

Although swimming, fishing and boating are the adventures for the day along the beachfront area, the trail system and waterfalls adjacent to Lake Rabun offer campers a true mountain experience. The Angel Falls Trail and Minnehaha Trail offer visitors two great hiking options.

Look for brand-new info boards and information in 2021, part of a project funded by FIND Outdoors in an effort to keep the campground current and looking sharp. There you'll discover everything you need to know about recreational opportunities, educational tidbits and how to plan the perfect day at Lake Rabun Beach!

THE ANGEL FALLS TRAIL

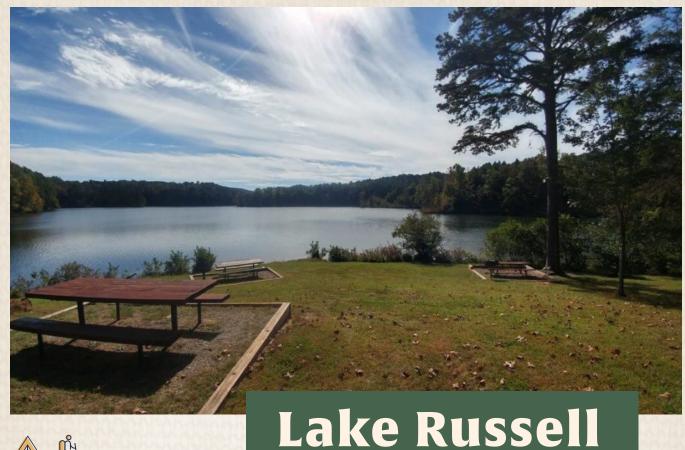
1.75 MILE

The Angel Falls Trail provides a leisurely 1.75-mile hike through pristine forests to Angel and Panther Falls - the stars of the show at Lake Rabun. Continue along the trail and you'll discover a moss-covered stone bench, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps under FDR in 1933. A must-see for any history buff!

MINNEHAHA TRAIL

0.2 MILE

Looking for more waterfalls on your hiking adventure? The same area around Lake Rabun holds a second and more robust waterfall - Minnehaha Falls, along the Minnehaha Trail just outside the Recreation Area. Named after the Dakota Tribe's word for "waterfall", this simple .2-mile hike is perfect for young explorers and families wanting to keep the trip on a shorter timeline.







3059 Lake Russell Road Mt. Airy, GA 30563

Fishing

Boating

Hiking

Bicycling

Camping

LOOKING FOR AN ESCAPE

from the hustle and bustle of everyday life? Only an hour and a half from Atlanta, Lake Russell Recreation Area is the perfect spot to get back to nature with family and friends. Fishing, biking, hiking

or simply lounging by a campfire are all on tap around the 100-acre Lake Russell.

Beginning in 2020, we're happy to announce that Lake Russell is now open year-round! FIND Outdoors understands the excitement and memories that follow a camping trip to a special spot during the winter. A warm fire, hot chocolate and cooking over the hot coals provide the perfect backdrop to a cold winter's day.

FIND is grateful for the opportunity to have worked closely with our USFS partners to provide the following for campground visitors during winter. Beginning in 2021 Lake Russell is offering:

- · Loop B open year-round
- · Heated bathhouse
- Boat launch
- Onsite campground managers

In addition to investing in yearround camping, FIND worked closely with the USFS to replace a leaking roof and areas of rot on the beach access bathhouse, a project that was several years in the making and immediately noticed by visitors this year.







439 Lake Winfield Scott Suches, GA 30572

Fishing

Paddling

Swimming

Hiking

Camping +Group Camping



⇒ SITUATED HIGH IN THE CHATTAHOOCHEE-OCONEE NATIONAL FOREST in northern GA. Lake Winfield Scott Recreation Area will be your go-to campground if you're looking for onsite and offsite adventures!

The campground and recreation area at Lake Winfield Scott offers year-round camping on 31 campsites, a two-story cabin that sleeps up to 12 people, an 18-acre lake, covered picnic shelters that can be reserved, and three hiking trails.

Lake Winfield Scott truly is the perfect base of operations for your trip to north Georgia. The opportunities are endless!

NEARBY SIGHTS

LOCAL RECREATION **OPPORTUNITIES**

Looking for a few opportunities for sightseeing during your trip? Look no further.

- · Visit BRASSTOWN BALD, the highest peak in Georgia. 🗈
- · Hike the paved trail to view ANNA RUBY FALLS. **(E)**
- · Grab some dinner in the Bavarian village of Helen, GA.
- · Enjoy outdoor activities at **VOGEL STATE PARK.**
- Try zip lining at UNICOI STATE PARK.



SUNSET AT MORGANTON POINT





475 Lake Drive Morganton, GA 30560

Camping

Fishing

Swimming

Boating

Rentals

Concessions

DEEP WITHIN THE CHATTA-HOOCHEE-OCONEE NATIONAL FOREST in North Georgia lies an amazing camping and recreation experience on the shores of Lake Blue Ridge. Morganton Point Recreation Area is an outdoor lover's dream with a lake that

boasts over 60 miles of shoreline, offering swimming, fishing, boating and coming in 2021 - The Point!

The Point is an exciting new endeavor by FIND Outdoors to provide special concessions to Morganton Point visitors. Those revenues will benefit the nonprofit and the site directly.

The beach area at Morganton Point is the perfect place to unwind, take a dip and soak up the sun for the afternoon. The Point is proud to offer its guests:

- Kayak rentals
- · Stand-up paddleboards
- · Educational and recreational programs

- · Chair and umbrella rentals
- · Commemorative Morganton Point items
- · Convenient camping items
- · Ice Cream, snacks and drinks

Look for news and updates on The Point through our Facebook and Instagram pages, as well as our website:

www.gofindoutdoors.org.



MORGANTON POINT DAY USE AREA







6464 Hardin Ridge Road Heltonville, IN 47436

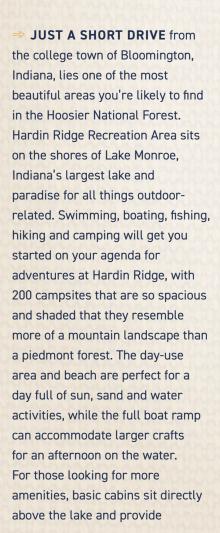
Hardin Ridge



Fishing

Swimming

Boating



stunning views of the water, fire pits and the convenience of having a roof over your head during your stay. Pull out a chair, fire up the coffee maker and watch the sun sink below the tree line over the lake and think about the next day's activities.

When you're ready to set out and explore the area surrounding Hardin Ridge, make sure to check out these other public land opportunities for hiking, exploring and learning about the natural history and culture of what makes Indiana so special:

- · Charles C. Deam Wilderness
- Hickory Ridge Lookout Tower
- · Lick Creek African American Settlement
- · Hemlock Cliffs National Scenic Trail
- · Wesley Chapel Gulf
- · Clover Lick Barrens

care for, sometimes our passion and love of our managed sites is a labor of love and worth every smile that crosses the faces of our visitors. Hardin Ridge staff used 2020 to complete a major renovation and revival of the beach area after storms caused major damage and upheaval to what was once a pristine beach. Using homemade screens and only their hands, the staff separated the sand from the debris and sifted every inch of the beach until it was back to a fine consistency. This job transformed the damaged beach back to its former glory and the

As with anything in life that you

This is all thanks to a staff who weren't afraid to get a little dirty and put their visitors above all else.

visitors to Hardin Ridge could

not have been happier.





20230 Indian Lake Access Road St. Croix, IN 47576



Camping



Fishing



Swimming



Boating



Hiking



Indian-Celina & Tipsaw

SOUTHERN INDIANA HOLDS TWO UNIQUE TREASURES for

those looking to venture off the beaten path and find the peace and tranquility of a weekend camping trip. Indian-Celina and Tipsaw Recreation Areas are located in Hoosier National Forest and sit on two gorgeous lakes ripe for fishing, swimming, boating or enjoying a day on the lakeshore with a picnic. But don't worry - nature and serenity aren't the only things exciting about the area. Be sure to visit the French Lick Casino, only a few minutes away, as well as Santa Clause, Indiana, Marengo Caves and the Charles C. Deam Wilderness.

Looking for another thing to do on-site while on your adventure?



RICKENBAUGH HOUSE

History-loving visitors and enthusiasts can also enrich their outdoor experience by following an easy foot trail to the historic Rickenbaugh House! Jacob Rickenbaugh came to the banks of Lake Celina in 1854 after acquiring 320 acres of property, where he and his wife, Elizabeth, raised a family and Jacob ran a successful tanning business. The house was built in 1874 after the Rickenbaughs realized that their country cabin was incapable of holding their



growing family of 10. Jacob hired three stone masons at \$3 per day to build the two-story, Late Greek Revival-styled home, constructed from local sandstone cut from nearby rocky outcrops. The blocks were moved and placed on-site using oxen and specialized ramps, while the floor joists and frame were made from hand-hewn beams. Construction took around one year to complete.

Today, FIND Outdoors proudly promotes the Rickenbaugh House as an educational and interpretive opportunity for visitors to Indian-Celina to keep the culture of the site alive. Self-guided tours are available in a safe and distanced manner during the recreation area's normal operating season and the integrity and respect of the site remain at the forefront for FIND Outdoors staff at all times.

TIPSAW AT SUNSET



TAKE A HIKE

TWIN LAKES TRAIL

15.7 MILE

Nature enthusiasts will enjoy the Twin Lakes Trail — a 15.7-mile journey that takes you through the backwoods of southern Indiana filled with mixed native hardwood and bottomland species of trees, wildflowers and wildlife galore. Access for the trail lies throughout the main service road within Indian-Celina Recreation Area, and from there it only gets more wild. Your adventure will take you adjacent to the two main lakes that supply the name for the area – Indian Lake and Lake Celina, both of which lie within the recreation area.



FIND Outdoors partners with the *National Inquirer* to produce free educational materials for students

THE NATURAL INQUIRER

PROGRAM produces free science education materials for students from pre-K to 12th grade covering a wide variety of natural science topics such as the carbon and water cycles, invasive species, fire science, and forestry.

Since 2004, FIND Outdoors has partnered with *Natural Inquirer* to provide journals, monographs, activities, lesson plans, and more to students, educators, and the general public at no cost.

These materials present peer-reviewed research done by U. S. Forest Service scientists and partners in the standard scientific paper format and at an accessible reading level. Students have a chance to expand their science literacy and engage in hands-on science in the included "FACT-ivities".

Last year, Natural Inquirer
published a new journal aimed at
middle and high school students
that focused on unique ecosystems.
"Caves and Karst" presented four
scientific articles about research
surrounding the unique
ecosystems of caves and karst
regions. Natural Inquirer also
released an advanced coloring book
detailing various aspects of fire
science and the researchers who
study fire. Finally, Natural Inquirer

debuted a new publication – Research FINDings – aimed at adult audiences and distributed at FIND Outdoors sites. The first edition, "What Lies Beneath," describes Forest Service research into environmental impacts of the invasive hemlock woolly adelgid as well as efforts by organizations such as the Hemlock Restoration Initiative to counteract these effects.

In addition to their published materials, Natural Inquirer has also created several new online resources for students and educators who have had to pivot to virtual instruction during the pandemic. Natural Inquirer produced 100 "Science Hours" pairing science articles and activities for students to complete independently or teachers to use with their classrooms. Natural Inquirer also offered four online learning modules — complete units of reading materials and activities paired with videos from FSNatureLIVE, a video series produced by the U.S. Forest Service and partners. The modules cover topics from freshwater science to Smokev Bear and fire science.

Natural Inquirer looks forward to a continuing partnership with FIND Outdoors to produce high quality scientific educational materials that are free and available to all.

Get yours here:

www.naturalinquirer.org for help in becoming a steward of all public lands!

SHOP FIND OUTDOORS

In addition to our FIND rebranding efforts, the team at Trevett's also created an online retail store to highlight many of the specialty items that make our onsite stores so unique.

WWW.GOFINDOUTDOORS.ORG/SHOP

Our online store makes it easy to purchase a gift for yourself or someone special! Browse items such as:

- · FIND branded hats, shirts, & stickers
- · Books on waterfalls and hiking
- · Nature games for children
- Annual passes to FIND managed sites
- · Camping and hiking gear
- Smokey Bear memorabilia

... and so much more!









LET'S GO FIND OUTDOORS

T FIND OUTDOORS, WE INSPIRE PEOPLE TO CONNECT WITH ATURE THROUGH WELL-MANAGED OUTDOOR RECREATION ITES, CAMPGROUNDS, GUIDED TOURS, AND EDUCATIONAL

HROUGH THIS CONNECTION, WE HOPE TO INSTILL GOOD TEWARDSHIP OF NATURAL RESOURCES, SO THAT TOGETHER.

UR STORY IS ROOTED IN EDUCATION ABOUT THE FOREST.

UR PASSION IS TO HELP PEOPLE BECOME INSPIRED.

UR GOAL IS TO HELP PEOPLE CONNECT WITH NATURE.

FINDOUTDOORS.ORG

ANNUAL PASS







Thank you for your generous support of FIND Outdoors! We work hard to minimize administrative overhead and make sure as much funding as possible goes directly toward Forest Inspired Nature Discovery. Because when you discover, you connect - when you connect, you care-and when you care, you protect. Ultimately, we want to make sure our public lands are protected for future generations.

Thank you for your support in helping people FIND Outdoors.



Maintaining Facilities **70%** Including capital improvements **Education and Programming** 20% Administrative 10%

\$5,000 +

The North Carolina Museum of Natural History Stihl

\$1.000 - \$1.999

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Sam Craig, Craig Law Firm, PLLC Benjamin Mitchell, Trevett's Angela Owen Earl Hunter, Black Folks Camp Too Rebekah Lowe The Pisgah Ranger District Team Susan Moore Jennifer Grantham

*Unrestricted Giving



WHERE WE ARE GOING

Now that you've read our story and learned what we can offer the public, it's time for you to FIND Outdoors and create an adventure for yourself! The future is extremely bright for our organization, with new sites to open, new partnerships, new programs, and events reimagined in a safe and thoughtful way. Our Board of Directors and staff are excited about the new endeavors that have yet to be discovered, and we hope that you'll join us on our journey. Now, get out there!

LET'S GO FIND OUTDOORS™

