

Groups stack up fall hikes and tours

BY CHARLES SOWELL

staff writer

Autumn traditionally is a premiere hiking season along the Blue Ridge Escarpment and this year has more events on tap than normal.

The Palmetto Conservation Foundation has announced five hikes in the Duke Energy Waterfall Trek Series are planned for October to December.

The series will consist of five hikes to five different waterfalls that are featured in the Palmetto Conservation Foundation Press bestselling book, "The Waterfalls of South Carolina."

Here are the hikes:

Thursday, Oct. 16, King Creek Falls in Oconee County (70 feet): A moderate one-mile hike that will be combined with Spoonauger Falls (50 feet) an easy hike nearby. This hike takes you through a laurel-choked gorge just off the Chattooga Trail near Burrell's Ford.

Thursday, Oct. 23, Lee Falls in Oconee County (75 feet): A difficult hike of approximately 3 miles. Lee Falls has no official trail and lies deep within a hardwood hollow.

Saturday, Nov. 1, Reedy Branch Falls in Oconee County (30 feet): An easy half-mile hike through a majestic forest and is well worth the short distance.

Saturday, Nov. 29, Green Creek Falls in Pickens County (30 feet): A moderate hike of about one mile. There is a \$2 entrance fee into Table Rock State Park. This fall offers one of the most interesting rock faces of any waterfall in the state.

Saturday, Dec. 6, Raven Cliff Falls in Greenville County (400 feet): A moderate 5.4 mile hike. This fall qualifies for postcard status with two breathtaking views.

Hikers should pay attention to the degree of difficulty listed. Start time for each hike is 10:00 a.m. Age minimum is 12 years old and up. Make sure to register for a hike in advance at (803)-771-0870 or sanderson@palmettoconservation.org.

Thoughtfully avoiding a conflict, Upstate Forever will conduct two days of



Charles Sowell/Staff

WATERFALL TOUR: Part of a fall full of informative visits and hikes.

tours at ten of the most beautiful, unique, and historically significant places in the Upstate.

Saturday, Oct. 11, the tour will visit five properties in Greenville and Spartanburg Counties: Blythe-Goodwin-Hagood House, Mountain Bridge Passage, Greenspace of Fairview (formerly Fairview Farm), Four Columns Farm, and Berry's Mill Pond.

On Saturday, Oct. 18, five properties in Pickens and Oconee Counties: Greenbrier Farms, Ramsey Creek Preserve, Rocky Fork Farm, Fall Creek, and Stumphouse Mountain.

At each stop, a landowner or local expert on the property will speak about the site's importance and showcase some its most remarkable features. Transportation will leave from and return to Upstate Forever's Greenville office on each day. Lunch will be provided to participants. The cost is \$100 per person per day, or \$175 for both days. Space is limited, so please reserve your spot now by contacting Gretchen Wilson at gwilson@upstateforever.org or 864-250-0500.

Contact Charles Sowell at 679-1208 or csowell@greenvillejournal.com.