

MIT Club of the Blue Ridge – Event Listing

Mount Rogers Dedication Ceremony ~ William Barton Rogers MIT150 Commemoration

Grayson Highlands State Park
829 Grayson Highland Lane
Mouth of Wilson, Virginia 24363
United States

Event Contact: Roger O'Dell (rogerodell@alum.mit.edu)
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Club website: <http://alumweb.mit.edu/clubs/blueridge>

Saturday, June 11, 2011

10:00 AM Gather at Picnic Shelter No. 1 then moving to the nearby trailhead kiosk

10:30 AM Ceremony at Massie Gap Trailhead

In case of heavy rain, the Dedication Ceremony will be held in Picnic Shelter No.1

10:30 AM To help celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of MIT, members of our MIT Alumni Club have chosen to recognize the founder of MIT in a way unique to our region. The highest peak in Virginia was named to honor the state's first geologist and distinguished educator, William Barton Rogers. We will be dedicating educational posters about Mount Rogers and William Barton Rogers, which are needed to honor the person for whom the mountain is named.

Following the ceremony, there are several options:

The date was chosen so as to be in the peak of rhododendron blooming season. A hike to Rhododendron Gap is a must for those who have not experienced this spectacular scene. Of course, a hike to the top of Mount Rogers is very appropriate, as well. And there will be an organized thru-hike between the Elk Garden trailhead and the Massie Gap trailhead on Sunday. The Appalachian Trail passes through this area, and various spurs offer plenty of great hiking opportunities.

Noon Picnic Shelter Number 1 has been reserved for our use from 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM. You are welcome to congregate there following the ceremony and swap stories about MIT, or about backpacking, or about the natural beauty of the Mount Rogers region, or whatever. Bring snacks, lunch, or a potluck dish to share. The Club will be providing grilled vegan and regular hamburgers and hot dogs.

7:30 PM Several of us will be going to a nearby restaurant in the evening. You are most welcome to come along. Gather at The Log House Restaurant, 4013 Troutdale Highway, Mouth of Wilson, Virginia, 24363; 276-579-4440.

While you are in the area, you will surely want to spend more time soaking in Mother Nature. In addition to a wide variety of flora and fauna, there is a herd of wild ponies that live there year-round. You may backpack, camp in one of the campgrounds, or stay in a hotel or B&B.

Some relevant links:

Grayson Highlands State Park:

http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/gra.shtml

Mount Rogers National Recreation Area:

<http://www.virginia.org/Listings/OutdoorsAndSports/MtRogersNationalRecreationArea/>

Grayson County, includes links to the nearest food and lodging:

<http://www.graysoncountyva.com/>

A hotel in Marion which many describe as the nicest in the area, about an hour's drive:

<http://www.generalfrancismarionhotel.com/>

Lodging in Damascus, about 45 minutes away:

<http://www.damascus.org/lodging.html>

The best trail map, for sale at Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/Rogers-National-Recreation-Illustrated-Geographic/dp/1566953138>

Also available at National Geographic, where you can zoom in on the map:

<http://shop.nationalgeographic.com/ngs/browse/productDetail.jsp?productId=786>