



Seventh Annual

# New River Gorge Wildflower Weekend

Celebrate the glories of an Appalachian spring in New River Gorge National River, Hawks Nest, Babcock, and Pipestem State Parks. Wildflowers will be blooming from the rim of the gorge to the river. Join rangers and naturalists in exploring these jewels of nature as well as this region's diverse ecology!

## Friday, April 23, 2010

### Blooms of Big Branch

9:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M., Big Branch trailhead, New River Gorge National River off River Rd. near Hinton, WV. Join rangers on a one-mile 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.

### Wildflower Discovery Walk

5:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M., Thurmond trailhead of the Rend Trail (formerly Thurmond-Minden Trail), New River Gorge National River near Thurmond, WV. Bring your favorite wildflower field guide for a close-up look at spring blooms along this old railroad line.

## Saturday, April 24, 2010

### 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 22; call 304-466-0417.

### Greening Your Native Garden

3:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M., Sandstone Visitor Center, New River Gorge National River in Sandstone, WV. Explore the native garden at the visitor center and learn how the use of native plant species can help your garden grow and make any landscape beautiful.

## Sunday, April 25, 2010

### 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

12:00 P.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 Birds 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.

## April 14 through April 27

### Youth Arts and 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. Local students celebrate regional ecology through art in this special exhibit, works of art 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.



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](http://www.nps.gov/neri) or [www.wvstateparks.com](http://www.wvstateparks.com)

304-466-0417 or 304-574-2115

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