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PO Box 33522, Decatur GA 30033
Phone: 770-934-5644 Web: georgiarocks.us/events

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Geologist Talk October 20 at Fannin County Library, Blue Ridge

Dr. Bill Witherspoon, co-author of the popular guide, *Roadside Geology of Georgia*, will present a talk, "Geology of Georgia's Blue Ridge," Thursday, October 20, at 5:00 PM at the Fannin County Library at 400 W Main St., Blue Ridge, GA 30513.

The most rugged part of Georgia, the Blue Ridge physical province also contains rock and mineral resources, including garnet-bearing flagstones and "fairy cross" staurolite near the town of Blue Ridge, copper sulfide deposits near McCaysville, and marble deposits in a belt from Murphy, NC to Jasper.

With slides and animation, Witherspoon will show how several scattered fragments of Earth's crust (called "terranes") began colliding to make the Appalachians more than 400 million years ago, burying the rocks of the area more than 10 miles below the surface and generating enormous heat and pressure. The Dahlonge Gold Belt, which began as a chain of volcanic islands around the present location of Charleston, SC, is one of four different distinct terranes identified in Georgia's Blue Ridge.

The landscape itself has a story to tell. There is increasing acceptance that the Southern Appalachians, though made of much older rock, were most recently uplifted "only" about 15 million years ago. Some of Georgia's best scenery, such as Tallulah Gorge, resulted from the competition between river networks for this high ground.

Roadside Geology of Georgia, a full-color 320-page guide, is the 25th book in a Mountain Press Publishing series for the general reader that has sold over one million copies. "Our goal is to take the reader to Georgia's natural wonders and explain the science that lies behind the scenery," says Witherspoon, who taught geology to K-12 students and their teachers for 17 years at DeKalb County Schools' Fernbank Science Center, and co-authored the 2013 book with Dr. Pamela Gore of Georgia Perimeter College.

This talk is sponsored by The Environmental Resource Network (TERN), which is a friends group of the Non-Game Section of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Money raised assists with eagle, right whale, sea turtle and endangered plant conservation, among others. Website:

tern.homestead.com

Attendees who register for *Roadside Geology of Georgia* author events can pick up the COOL BILLION-year-old rock described at georgiarocks.us/corbin. Register at georgiarocks.us/events or "Join" in facebook.com/RoadsideGeologyGA/events. Contact for information: Dr. Bill Witherspoon, bill@georgiarocks.us.