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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Geologist Walk and Talk [past event] in Dahlonega**

Dr. Bill Witherspoon, co-author of the popular guide, *Roadside Geology of Georgia*, will lead a walk and present a talk, "Geology, Gold, and the Making of Georgia," in Dahlonega [past event]. The events, free and open to the public, will be hosted by the Lumpkin County Historical Society and Blue Ridge Archaeology Guild (B.R.A.G.) as part of a joint June monthly meeting.

The walk will meet at the Yahoola Creek Park tennis courts parking lot at 5:30pm. From there, the group will walk 1/4 mile to a quarry on Findley Ridge. This is the ridge M.F. Stephenson was pointing to when he said "There's millions in it" to Dahlonega miners departing for California gold fields, a phrase picked up by Mark Twain that inspired Hollywood's "Thar's gold in them thar' hills." Though gold may not be visible, attendees will examine rocks of the Dahlonega gold belt in one of its most famous locales. In the event of thundershowers, the walk will be cancelled.

The 7:00 talk will be at the Dahlonega Community House at 111 N. Park Street. In his slideshow with animations, Dr. Witherspoon will explain the science behind the formation of Dahlonega's gold deposits over a time span of half a billion years, from earliest volcanic activity to the settling of nuggets in streams. Insights borrowed from historians show how Georgia's Gold Rush fostered its industry and helped give it a different character from other neighboring states.

*Roadside Geology of Georgia*, a full-color 320-page guide, is the 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

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