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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Geologist Talk and Walk May 7 at High Falls State Park

Dr. Bill Witherspoon, co-author of the popular guide, *Roadside Geology of Georgia*, will present a talk and walk, “The Hidden Gem Beneath Your Feet at High Falls State Park,” Saturday, May 7, at 11:00 AM, beginning at the park visitor center.

A rock outcrop in the park was featured in the book as illustrating three different stages of geologic history of this part of the Piedmont region, from about 400 million until 300 million years ago. Much later, the hard metamorphic and igneous rocks made by these events resisted erosion by the Towaliga River, causing the spectacular falls.

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 350 million years ago, burying the rocks of the area more than 10 miles below the surface and generating enormous heat and pressure. High Falls lies near one end of the Cat Square terrane, a narrow strip that reaches to near Winston-Salem, NC. Following its crash into North America in the area of New England, this terrane slid here along a fault system similar to California’s San Andreas fault.

Following the talk and book signing, Witherspoon will lead a short walk to the outcrop featured in the book, and to the overlook of High Falls.

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.

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” at facebook.com/RoadsideGeologyGA/events. Contact for information: Dr. Bill Witherspoon, bill@georgiarocks.us.