



Fernbank Science Center

Where Science Becomes an Adventure

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Geologist Walk and Talk September 13 Ties Roswell History to Geology

A geologist will present a slide show about how geology influenced Roswell's founding, growth, and Civil War history, after leading a walk along Big Creek near the city's historic district. The event, beginning at 9:30 AM on Saturday, September 13, is one of several walks, talks, and book signings by the authors of *Roadside Geology of Georgia*. The full-color 320-page guide is part of a Mountain Press Publishing series that has sold over one million copies. "Our goal is to engage the reader with the Earth science that lies behind Georgia's natural wonders and history," says presenter and book co-author Dr. Bill Witherspoon, who has taught geology to K-12 students and their teachers for 17 years at DeKalb County Schools' Fernbank Science Center.

The walk will begin at 9:30 from the covered bridge off Mill Street. Attendees will examine 350-million-year-old rocks, descend into the 120-foot-deep gorge, and visit the 1854 mill dam that can resemble a scaled-down Niagara Falls. At Bulloch Hall at 11:00, Witherspoon will present the slide show, "The Geology That Made Roswell: a Gold Rush and a Rejuvenated Landscape." The program illustrates how North Georgia's gold, the discovery of which drew founder Roswell King to the area, can be traced back to seafloor volcanic processes and the subsequent mountain-building when Africa collided with North America. Much later, after erosion had reduced the mountains to flatland, a rejuvenated Chattahoochee River led Big Creek to carve its impressive gorge. The creek's waterpower made Roswell an early industrial center and a key target of Union forces in the Civil War.

Attendees who register for this and other upcoming *Roadside Geology of Georgia* author events are eligible for a COOL BILLION-year-old rock. Register at georgiarocks.us/events or "Join" in [facebook.com/RoadsideGeologyGA/events](https://www.facebook.com/RoadsideGeologyGA/events).

Contact for information:

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