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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Geologist-Led Walk and Talk April 25 at Tallulah Gorge State Park

An April 25 walk and talk at Tallulah Gorge State Park is part of a series of walks, talks, and book signings around the state by the authors of the 2013 book, *Roadside Geology of Georgia*. The full-color 320-page guide is part of 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 presenter and book co-author Dr. Bill Witherspoon, who taught geology to K-12 students and their teachers for 17 years at DeKalb County Schools' Fernbank Science Center.

The program will begin at 10:00 at the Jane Hurt Yarn Visitor Center with a brief activity geared to teach young and old to recognize local rocks and minerals. Witherspoon will then guide attendees to the steepest-walled, and fourth-deepest, gorge east of the Rockies. Pylons and cables preserved from a tightrope walk in 1970 by Karl Wallenda are observed at a narrow point of the gorge. This location provides an excellent view along the deepest part of the gorge toward the Tallulah River's confluence with the Chattooga River to form the Tugaloo River.

Following the walk, at about 11:30 at the park visitor center, Witherspoon will give a talk followed by book-signing, *River Rivalries: the Battle That Made Georgia Mountain Scenery*. His presentation explains how stream capture, a result of eroding streams battling one another for supremacy, has shaped scenic features that draw millions of visitors, such as Tallulah Gorge, Black Rock Mountain, and Amicalola Falls. As first recognized early in the twentieth century, the narrowness of Tallulah Gorge reflects its relatively recent origin, when the Tugaloo River, which flows to the Atlantic, eroded through a ridge and captured the Chattooga and Tallulah waters, which formerly flowed to the Chattahoochee and the Gulf of Mexico.

The event is hosted by the Franklin Gem and Mineral Society and Tallulah Gorge State Park.

The two events are included with \$5 park pass admission to the state park. 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.